

Dear Chairman Dembrow, I strongly oppose SB223. This goes against my religious freedom and parental choice. This bill undermines private education in Oregon by making it subject to the rule of the state. My child's educational needs are best served by our private Christian school. My choice as a parent, was to enroll my child in a faith based, private education. This bill goes too far, forcing private schools to register with the state, or being cut off from choir, sports, and other interscholastic programs. It is unfair to punish our kids from excluding them from extracurricular activities that are offered in private and public schools. Our school is currently a member of the OSSA, and they participate in choir and sports. Why would you take this away from my child, especially after the isolation created due to the Covid-19 pandemic? SB 223 adds expenses to private schools with very little (if any) benefit to the schools or students served by them. The Legislature passed a law in 2019 to protect private school students, and SB223 is unnecessary in light of that legislation. It shouldn't matter what type of school our children attend. I send mine to a private school (at a considerable expense to our family), and also pay Oregon taxes to fund public schools. Please don't use our students as leverage in political fights. I ask you to stand with parents, like me, and vote NO on SB223. It is totally unnecessary and will only harm our kids.