

I strongly urge a vote against SB 223 as a PRIVATE school leader, and former PUBLIC school teacher.

Issues with this bill:

SB 223 Senate uses student activities as a means of leverage to reach a goal. It restricts a specific population of students (those attending non-registered private schools) from participating in interscholastic sports or activities (OSAA) - directly targeting and harming the emotional, physical and social wellbeing of children to achieve a goal.

I strongly oppose SB 223 for the following reasons:

1. If enacted, SB 223 would require private schools to register with ODE annually, submitting reports and information for approval by the committee on:

- Curriculum
- Student behavior & discipline policies
- Instructional time
- Student mental health & abuse investigation
- Facility health and safety
- Teacher competency & background checks

Adding a financial burden to both the ODE and the private school – an unnecessary use of funds that should be used to provide greatly needed instruction for students.

2. If enacted, SB 223 will require private schools to receive permission from the ODE on general operations. Deeming private schools under the authority of the public school system. In essence, an extension of the public school system. This poses a great threat to religious private schools which provide a distinct education. This would greatly undermine the private religious schools ability to operate according to the mission of their school.

3. If enacted, SB 223 solves nothing. All schools are required to participate in the criminal background registry system. As noted by the Committee's fall meeting, the greatest shortcomings in this area are found in public education.

4. If enacted, SB 223 will hinder a parent's right to choose an education for their child that they feel provides the best educational experience for their child. The First Amendment grants parents the right to choose an education that does not interfere with their religious beliefs. Using athletics as leverage (limiting the ability of a child to have a full school experience) to meet a goal, directly targets those students whose parents are choosing a private school for religious education.

State regulation of private education should not limit a child's school experience as a means to meet a goal. It appears to be targeting a specific population of students of which many are exercising their right based on strong religious conviction to choose religious private education for their children.

I strongly urge you to vote no on SB 223.

Sincerely,

Janelle Detweiler