

SB223 MUST be rejected.

This is another attempt by the government to "fix" something that is not broken and putting the burden on the students. Private schools do not need fixing, oversight, or regulation by the state. They are private institutions, and it is up to parents to determine if it is a good fit for their child, not the Department of Education. The Department of Education has enough to worry about such as getting kids back in school and should be discussing changing the standards to meet the trauma these kids have experienced over the last year, from being out of school.

We live in the United States of America. Meaning, that I am free to NOT place my children in a public education system. A public education system that feels it more important to indoctrinate my children with THEIR beliefs and tell them what to think, rather than teach them how to critically think and evaluate information, or how to apply math to real-life situations such as balancing a budget. I am the parent, and these are MY children, that I will raise as I see fit, not how the government sees fit. The state has NO place in private education. Parents put their children in private school to get OUT of state-controlled schools. Parents willingly pay tuition to send their children to private schools while paying taxes for public school, even though their children do not attend; that is how much it matters to them. My kids are thriving in private school. Their grades have never been better and they are happy. Why would I want to put them back into a situation that did not serve them well or that was a replication of the system that failed them previously? Private schools and churches are the last institutions that have moral codes and the conviction to say that something is right or wrong. Whether you agree with these moral codes is irrelevant; it is my choice to determine what is right or wrong, for my family. I respect that others may disagree, but I expect to be given that same respect in return.

This bill does not give private schools the freedom to choose to register or not, as it clearly states that there will be heavy financial consequences if they do not. Furthermore, the committee that is recommended, which will have 5 out of 6 private school representatives, will be overseen by someone from the DOE. That is overreach. Finally, while the bill is supposedly designed to protect students, do not misinterpret what is written; they, the students, will not be allowed to participate in certain activities. They will be the ones to suffer the consequences at your hand of this bill. Stop making them pawns in your quest for party appeasement. Do not accept this bill, it leads down a dangerous, irreversible path.