

March 30, 2023

Senate Committee on Education
900 Court St NE, HR B
Salem, OR 97301

Chair Dembrow, Vice Chair Weber and Members of the Committee:

I am writing to support SB 1075.

As a parent of students that went through PPS and are now students at the University of Oregon. I know the value of having teacher librarians for my children. Two of my children went to a middle school without a teacher librarian and my third child had a teacher librarian. My youngest child had a course taught by the librarian that taught them how evaluate information and to be critical of what they found on the internet. My daughter understood at the end of the course that it is important to give credit where credit is due (not to plagiarize) and that not every source is equal. This her ahead of her classmates when she got into high school and in college.

I must also admit that I am an academic librarian. So, I also have seen at the undergraduate level what it looks like for student that don't have any information literacy taught to them prior to college. They struggle to understand how to locate and evaluate quality information. These students will often run into issues with plagiarism and not understand how to back up their ideas with sourced information.

Lastly, in the last week we have learned that Linn-Benton Community College is eliminating all of their faculty librarian positions. I fear that because the State of Oregon has devalued librarians and information literacy at the K-12 level it is now being devalued in higher education.

Please support SB 1075 to begin the process of building back strong school library programs and once again valuing information literacy at all levels in Oregon.

Sincerely,

Kim Olson-Charles, MLS
Portland, OR