

Submitter: Devon Lawson-McCourt
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Education
Measure: SB1583

To the Honorable Members of the Senate Committee on Education,

I write to you today as a staunch advocate for social justice and equality, urging you to stand in solidarity with the principles that form the bedrock of our society by supporting Senate Bill 1583. This critical piece of legislation represents not merely an administrative adjustment but a monumental stride towards the equitable education system that is the cornerstone of a truly democratic and equitable society.

In a world where discrimination continues to rear its ugly head in various forms, SB 1583 serves as a beacon of hope, illuminating the path towards an inclusive and fair educational environment for all our children. By prohibiting discrimination in the selection of textbooks, instructional materials, and library books in public schools, we are ensuring that every child, regardless of their race, gender, religion, or socio-economic background, has access to a broad, diverse, and enriching curriculum. This is not merely an educational imperative but a moral one, aligning perfectly with the socialist values of equality, justice, and community.

The passage of this bill will send a clear message that Oregon stands unequivocally against the biases that have historically marred our education system and society at large. It affirms our commitment to creating a world where education serves as a powerful tool for understanding, tolerance, and unity, rather than a vehicle for perpetuating outdated prejudices.

Moreover, the emergency declaration attached to SB 1583 underscores the urgency of addressing these issues. Discrimination in educational materials not only undermines the intellectual and emotional development of our children but also contradicts the very essence of what it means to live in a fair and just society. We cannot afford to delay actions that foster an inclusive educational environment, free from the chains of discrimination.

In supporting SB 1583, we are not just advocating for a legislative change; we are championing a transformative vision for our future—one where education equips every child with the knowledge, empathy, and critical thinking skills needed to build a more equitable, just, and equitable world. This bill lays the groundwork for that vision, ensuring our educational materials reflect the diverse experiences and contributions of all people, thus enriching our collective understanding and appreciation of the world around us.

As a committed progressive, I believe in the power of education to not only shape minds but to transform societies. By supporting SB 1583, we are taking a decisive step towards realizing an education system that embodies our shared values of equality, justice, and solidarity. I urge you, with the utmost conviction, to support this bill and thereby commit to the betterment of our society and the future generations who will inherit it.

Sincerely,
Devon Lawson-McCourt
Associated Student Body Business Manager
11th Grade Class Treasurer