

Submitter: Lori Van Deman
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Education
Measure: SB1583

As a librarian with 20 years of experience, I urge Oregon to pass this bill and put a stop to book bans in our state.

Statistics from the American Library Association show that the vast majority of book challenges and bans are directed toward minority voices, including books about or by people of color and LGBTQIA+ individuals. One of the many responsibilities of good government is to prevent the continued victimization and bullying of historically marginalized people.

Ending book bans in our state does not impinge on the rights of parents to guide their children in their reading choices. In fact, it allows ALL parents more choices in encouraging learning, empathy, and literacy with their children.

Let Oregon lead the way in ending book bans in the USA!