

Submitter: Emma Fish

On Behalf of:

Committee: Senate Committee on Education

Measure: SB1583

I support Measure SB1583 because even in discussing the question posed in this measure we are acknowledging that we have been inadequately addressing the roles and contributions made by people from marginalized communities. As a white woman, if I'm aware that I'm making my friends and neighbors feel like I'm failing their children, why continue? Why not listen to the voices of those directly impacted by these choices when they tell us that maintaining the status quo is actively harmful to them?

We would not have computational systems in the form that we do now without Ada Lovelace. Sally Ride was an inspiration for a whole generation of women in science, and she feared being honest about the woman that she loved all of the way up to her death. Chemistry research by Percy L. Julian has saved the lives of hundreds. We all know about the hole in the Ozone layer, but do we know Mario Molina, who won the Nobel Prize and the Presidential Medal of Freedom for his research in how to repair it?

Teaching the basic facts of core subjects like science and mathematics is necessary, but context is what truly helps us learn and grow. Teachers and educators have the skills and training to deliver context and content side by side. They are our best resource, and we need to enable them to do their jobs effectively, not hamstring them. Measure SB1583 gives them the tools they need to adequately teach to all of their students equally.