

Submitter: Donald Allgeier
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Education
Measure: SB1583

Senate Committee on Education,

I am writing to encourage you to support the passage of SB 1583. As a Public Library Director, I engage regularly with people about their educational materials needs. It is vitally important that school libraries are able to provide materials that tell the full history of our home state including the stories of those people that have been historically excluded from written educational materials. I hear regularly from families that would like to see themselves in the materials available at their libraries. This is particularly important in rural communities like the one I live and work in where there are not always bookstores where families could supplement the materials they have access to at their school or library.

Beyond the issue of access, I believe this bill would alleviate some of the stress faced by library workers for simply doing their job. As national political interests have focused attention on libraries, I have heard from library staff people in Oregon and around the United States that have faced increased security and safety issues. My hope is that this bill would help to mitigate some of the personal attacks that library staff have had to endure in carrying out their work.

Thank you,
Don Allgeier