

Submitter: Heidi Senior
On Behalf Of: All people with empathy for non-dominant groups
Committee: Senate Committee On Education
Measure: SB1583

I strongly urge support of SB1583. It provides needed clarification to protect school administrators and school boards from making discriminatory decisions regarding selecting or de-selecting library and curriculum resources. Such discriminatory decisions are already illegal; SB1583 simply makes that explicitly clear.

Discrimination against any viewpoint, particularly those expressed by or of protected classes such as gender identity, sexual orientation, race, religion, and more, has no place in our public schools. Such discrimination is unconstitutional.

SB1583 does not preclude any individual parent's or guardian's right to monitor or oversee what their own children read or view. It does protect the rights of ALL parents and guardians for their children to have access to the full breadth of human experience in the school setting.

For many children, the school library may be the only library they have consistent and ready access to, and purchasing books is not always financially feasible for all families. Providing the full breadth of human experience in the resources available in their school library or classroom is vitally important for these students' mental health and quality education for our globally connected world.

SB1583 further protects schools and school boards from unnecessary, unconstitutional, and time-consuming responses to challenges to materials that are clearly discriminatory in nature. Help our volunteer school boards and the administrators they hire focus on the work of providing a quality education for our students, and not waste their precious time dealing with a vocal minority's attempts to silence viewpoints. Based on my reading of some of the testimony, they don't have a great sense of how this bill will function, so I hope there will be some publicity and marketing to help all Oregonians understand the benefits of this bill.

Please vote yes for SB1583. Thank you for your time and consideration