

Submitter: Peter Leonard
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Education
Measure: SB1583

I am writing in support of SB 1583 that would prohibit discrimination when selecting textbooks, instructional materials, or library books that are used in Oregon public schools. I have been alarmed at the rise in efforts to restrict access to information by public school students. These efforts are often promoted by well-intentioned parents who want only their point of view represented in schools. The truth is that we live in a wonderful, multicultural state made stronger by the presence and participation of so many people with different backgrounds, traditions, and beliefs. Learning about all who contributed to the rich history of Oregon is essential for students. The founders of our country believed so much in freedom of speech and thought that they wrote the First Amendment to the Constitution to protect those rights. Given the current efforts to restrict access to learning in public schools, I urge you to follow the U.S. Constitution and pass SB 1583.