

Submitter: Kevin O'Neal
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Education
Measure: SB1583

As a single father of a now thriving adult neurodivergent son, I strongly support SB 1583. Raising my son by myself, it was incredibly important for us to have access to free or low-cost activities to keep him entertained. The school and public libraries were some of the best options for us to visit and to spend our time.

On the occasion when we found materials that reflected our unique situation (whether it be books or movies showing a single father raising kids, or books showing characters who are neurodivergent) it created a sense of ease and acceptance that we were not alone, that we were going to be okay, that other people could understand what it was like to live the way we did.

This bill isn't just about protecting how we teach American history, or making sure kids have resources to better understand themselves, this bill protects any household that doesn't fit the norm. It protects ALL families, regardless of what their make-up is, whether they are the majority or not. The bill says it is okay to live differently than the masses and that our stories are worth reflecting and learning about. This bill tells me it was okay to be a single dad with a neurodivergent son in the state of Oregon and that our stories won't be lost just because it isn't mainstream.

Please vote yes on SB 1583