

Submitter: Bryan Miyagishima
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Education
Measure: SB1583

I strongly support SB 1583 that will prevent discrimination when selecting textbooks, instructional materials, program materials or library books in public schools and hope that you will vote to likewise support its passage. In a time when attempts to censor library and curricular materials are on the rise in the United States and within Oregon, SB 1583 will help prevent these book bans and removal attempts, support teachers and school library professionals in their work, and support Oregon students by letting them see educational materials, books, magazines, and media that reflect their own identity and culture.

As a third-generation Japanese American whose family was forcibly removed from their home in Terminal Island, California, whose fisherman grandfather was falsely imprisoned in North Dakota at the outset of World War II, along with other Japanese American fishermen, and whose family suffered from generational trauma from these experiences, I find myself aghast that books and graphic novels about the Japanese American incarceration experience are regularly challenged and censored in schools.

Acknowledging people's existence and history is a matter of fact, not ideology. On the other hand, attempts to erase their existence and history in books and educational materials supports an ideology that serves neither our students, nor communities.

I strongly urge you to vote yes on SB 1583.