

February 9, 2024

Dear Senate Committee On Education,

I'm writing to express my wholehearted support for Oregon SB 1583, which seeks to prohibit discrimination in the selection of textbooks, instructional materials, program materials, or library books used in public schools across our state. This bill represents a critical step towards fostering inclusivity and diversity within our education system.

Every student deserves access to materials that accurately represent them free from bias or prejudice. By ensuring that textbooks and other educational resources are selected without discrimination, SB 1583 promotes a learning environment that is equitable and respectful of all students, regardless of their background. It opens the door to multiple perspectives and offers the opportunity for deep and meaningful conversations between students, teachers, and family members. The choice of what to read or not to read sits in the laps of parents. Individual groups of people should not have the power to determine what my child or my students can or can't read.

I urge you to stand in support of this important legislation. Let's work together to create a school environment where every child feels valued and empowered to succeed.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,
Dr. Holly Bordwell
Library Media Specialist
Jason Lee Elementary School
Portland Public Schools