

Submitter: Richenda Hawkins
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Education
Measure: SB1583

I am writing in support of 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 support the bill when it comes up for a vote.

Our children deserve the freedom to read about people who reflect their identities and tell the histories of their communities.

As a librarian, I know it is important for students to find information and materials that support their development and curiosity in culturally inclusive ways. We believe it is critical to carefully select books, magazines, educational videos and experiences that reflect our student populations in a culturally and linguistically appropriate manner.

Many of these attempts are blatant in their opposition to LGBTQ+ materials and materials written by ethnic minorities. These censorship attempts intend to limit the materials available to Oregon students based solely on the constitutionally protected viewpoints of those materials. I believe SB 1583 will help prevent these book bans and removal attempts.

Please pass SB 1583 with the proposed amendment from the Oregon Library Association.

Thanks,
Richenda Hawkins