

Submitter: Robert Bath
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Education
Measure: SB1583

Dear Honorable Senate Education Cttee. Members,

I've been a public school science teacher for 35 years, most recently in Grants Pass (24 years). The most important thing I can tell you is that my students bond with me and my subject when they see themselves doing my subject, regardless of gender, skin color, orientation, etc. Sadly, in our state, many BIPOC students have never seen a black health care worker, or an engineer of asian ancestry.

I also am an advisor to an LGBTQ afterschool club. Some of the students in the club are ostracized by aunts, uncles, grandparents, and sometimes their parents. As a result, their mental health is not the best, and they fail to reach their full potential academically. Those of us who've taught as long as I have are aware that suicide rates are highest among LGBTQ students.

It is therefore, incumbent upon us to select the curriculum and other materials such that kids see themselves in! Our country is desperate for mathematicians, science teachers, engineers, and especially health care workers.

One need only look at the flight of people from red states who've already placed homophobic and bigoted bans on certain books and medical care to know that this is not the course that is best for all of our state's citizens.

Please, support education by passing SB1583.

Sincerely,

Bob Bath

Science (5 sections) and Beginning Guitar (1 section) teacher;

Sexuality and Gender Equality Club advisor

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