

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

Senate Committee on Education

Chair Dembrow, Vice Chair Weber, Committee Members,

RE SB 1583

I am opposed to the bill in the strongest terms possible. I understand the stated purpose is to prevent discrimination in text books and reading materials. However, the promotion and advancement of such protected groups as lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender in schools is not an appropriate topic for school materials. The inclusion of such material is social engineering which has no place in the public school system. If people want access to these materials, they can be done outside of the captive audience of the public school system.

Additionally, the placing of the limitations on the School District Boards would severely limit the role of the Local School Boards that are elected and reflect the needs and desires of the local school district. Their job is to listen to the patrons of the district and select quality material that provide a good education to become a valued community member.

This proposal is another step away from the core curriculum that schools were designed to teach children and educate them to be contributing members of society. Academic scores have fallen to low levels and continue to be well below the national average. I have heard of the "great" graduation rates that schools are achieving. But it does no good to graduate functionally illiterate children that can't qualify for a job. Schools need to concentrate on core classes not social odysseys catering to a small but vocal group of advocates.

I understand that I might not agree with some peoples life choices but that does not give them the right to ignore my sincerely held beliefs as well as those held by my children and inject materials into schools that are offensive. When this type of controversial subject matter is mainstreamed, impressionable children do not understand the differences being told to them by someone in authority such as a teacher or school administrator as compared to the teaching of parents or Sunday school teachers. This will require more time to deal with the confusion and leave less time to deal with math and science and English language arts. Our children do not need to be indoctrinated by advocates of lifestyles that are against the beliefs of most people.

I urge you to kill this bill. There are rules on the books that groups may not be discriminated against. But we don't need or want these life styles being advocated and promoted in public school.

Respectfully  
Bob Hart  
Rogue River, OR