

Submitter: Amanda Woodruff  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Senate Committee On Education  
Measure: SB1583

Bill 1583 will solidify the rights of all students to learn about the people and experiences that make up their world. Every person, including children, not only deserves to see themselves represented in whatever topic they're learning about, but also to explore the viewpoints of others—which helps develop empathy, inclusivity, and compassion.

Not only is the freedom to read fundamental to our democracy, it is how students grow into critical thinkers. Those who attempt to sow fear over students' access to library materials are, at best, misinformed and, at worst, acting in bad faith. Students in public schools should always have access to developmentally-appropriate materials about a wide variety of topics. Parents can still be involved in what information their own students consume, but they do not have the right to choose what is acceptable for other students & families.

Thank you, Senators, for supporting Bill 1583 and the rights of Oregon students.