

February 12, 2024

Dear Legislators,

My name is Nancy Sullivan, and I am writing to express my strong support for Senate Bill 1583, which addresses the important issue of preventing discrimination when selecting textbooks, instructional materials, program materials, or library books in public schools. As a dedicated school librarian in our diverse community, I believe that this bill is crucial in promoting inclusivity and preventing censorship attempts that have been on the rise, not just nationally, but also here in Oregon.

SB 1583 brings much-needed clarity to assist schools and school boards in adhering to the prohibition on discrimination, as mandated by ORS 659.850. In the current climate, our country is witnessing an alarming increase in attempts to censor library and curriculum materials, and Oregon is unfortunately not exempt from this trend.

Many of these censorship attempts are particularly directed against LGBTQ+ materials, seeking to restrict access to certain materials solely based on the constitutionally protected viewpoints they represent. I firmly believe that SB 1583 will play a crucial role in thwarting these book bans and removal attempts, thereby safeguarding the diversity of educational resources available to our students.

As librarians, we understand the importance of providing students with a learning environment that reflects their diverse community. We are committed to carefully selecting books, periodicals, educational videos, and experiences that resonate with our student populations in a culturally and linguistically appropriate manner.

Passing SB 1583, along with the proposed amendment from the Oregon Library Association, is a step towards ensuring that vital educational texts and materials are accessible to all students, regardless of their background or identity. I kindly request that you vote in favor of SB 1583 when it comes up for consideration, either in committee or on the floor, and support the amendment proposed by the Oregon Library Association.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter. I appreciate your dedication to the well-being and education of our community's students.

Sincerely,

Nancy Sullivan

Nancy Sullivan
McDaniel Library
Portland, OR