

Submitter: Alison Ellsworth
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Education
Measure: SB1583

I am writing in support of SB 1583 to 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. I am a middle school teacher and parent in Portland, and I know first hand how important it is for students to see themselves in the materials that they use for learning in school. It is critical to carefully select books, magazines, educational videos and experiences that reflect our student populations in a culturally and linguistically appropriate manner, and in a way that provides the materials to the students who are most marginalized and who most need it.

The US is experiencing an explosion of attempts to censor library and curriculum materials in our public schools, and Oregon is no exception. Many of these attempts are blatant in their opposition to LGBTQ+ materials and materials that discuss the history and present racism in this country. 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.

Thank you,
Alison Ellsworth