



The League of Women Voters of Oregon, established in 1920, is a grassroots nonpartisan political organization that encourages informed and active participation in government. We envision informed Oregonians participating in a fully accessible, responsive, and transparent government to achieve the common good. LWVOR Legislative Action is based on advocacy positions formed through studies and member consensus. The League never supports or opposes any candidate or political party.

February 13, 2024

To: Chair Sen. Dembrow, Vice-Chair Sen. Weber, Committee Members
[Senate Committee on Education](#)

Re: [SB 1583](#) – Prohibits discrimination in selection of textbooks and learning materials – **Support**

The League of Women Voters of the United States believes in the individual liberties guaranteed by the Constitution of the United States. The League is convinced that the individual rights now protected by the Constitution should not be weakened or abridged.

Based on this position, we promote the fact that youth of all ages within the public school system should always be permitted to learn, in age-appropriate ways, the values that promote diversity, equity, inclusion, and the belonging of all people. It is important for youth’s problem-solving skills, to understand the issues we all face together, as a community, a state, a nation, and a world.

Section 2(B) of this Bill clearly states the course we need to follow: “To comply with the prohibition on discrimination required by ORS 659.850, a district school board or any person responsible for the selection or retention of books in the library of a public elementary or secondary school of this state may not prohibit the selection or retention of, or refuse to select or retain, a library book on the basis that the library book includes a study or story of any individual or group against whom discrimination is prohibited under ORS 659.850.”

We urge your support for SB 1583.

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss this legislation.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rebecca L. Gladstone".

Rebecca Gladstone
Co-President LWVOR

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Anne L. Nesse".

Anne Nesse
Education Portfolio