

Submitter: Deborah Wheelbarger
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Education
Measure: SB1583

Dear Committee Members,

Please consider supporting SB 1583 to Ban Book Bans. As a retired professional school librarian (22 years at David Douglas School District) I can absolutely assure you that the libraries in Oregon have robust collection policies covering all the materials in the library. Unfortunately, there are small organized groups with philosophically narrow opinions wanting to control access to books only they approve. While librarians seek to be expansive with selection to include the entire diverse populations we serve these people would prevent inclusion to anyone outside their narrow perimeters.

People need to see themselves in books--to affirm their experience. I have worked for years in one of the most ethnically diverse areas in Oregon. Kids need to feel welcome in the world and read about people just like them. In addition there are children that come from single gender families or families completely beyond imagination. Libraries are places where we seek to embrace all these folks. As a result of trying to meet these needs librarians are under attack locally and nationwide. Who could have ever imagined someone would threaten a school librarian over a picture book that looks like a local family. It's a crazy world. Please help make the world safer for librarians and ensure access to materials for everyone.
Thank you for your thoughtful consideration.