

Submitter: Keri Lopez
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Education
Measure: SB1583

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I am writing in OPPOSITION of SB 1583, as mom raising Hispanic children in the public education system, a member of a protected class, and a Director serving in my second term on the Redmond School District Board. In these roles, this question is always front and center, "is this in the best interest of kids, families, and our community?"

I began my first term of Board service in July of 2021-in the midst of a global pandemic, school shutdowns, mask and vaccine mandates. Local control of our school district was non-existent. Students, families and communities throughout Oregon are still reeling from the catastrophic effects of these decisions made at the state level. It is imperative that school boards maintain local control over decisions regarding curriculum to avoid further disparities in educational outcomes in our communities.

For clarity, board policy BB, states "The Legislature enacts laws to delegate the immediate control of the schools to locally elected boards." Board policy IF/IFD states that "The Board is the legal instrument through which the state fulfills it's responsibilities to education... The patrons of a district control curriculum by the policies of the elected Board." Furthermore, under the authority of local school boards, policies and administrative regulations including complaint procedures regarding discrimination (policy AC/AC-AR), bias (policy ACB/ACB-AR), and instructional materials selection (policy IIA/IIA-AR) in Oregon school districts currently exist.

SB 1583 is poised to strip away local control from school boards and patrons that control curriculum under the guise of discrimination. I urge legislators, that preach about equity and disparate outcomes for minorities and the underserved, to stop ignoring the voices in our communities. BIOPIC, rural, poor, protected classes are also individuals that may want to maintain local control over the education of children in our communities. SB 1583 is not in the best interest of kids, families, and our community and I urge your NO vote on SB 1583.