

Submitter: Connie W
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Education
Measure: SB1583

As a mother in Oregon, I oppose SB 1583.

#1 PROTECTION VS DISCRIMINATION

This bill was created in response to parents being concerned about certain books in public and school libraries in kids' sections. Commonly cited reasons against the materials were claims that the materials were sexually explicit or due to LGBTQIA2S+ content.

(I think having this content in school libraries is particularly egregious. I don't feel as strongly about public libraries, as they are for the entire community as a whole, including adults. And parents can have more control what their kids are exposed to in public libraries.)

There's a reason there are ratings on movies and tv shows...so parents have the option of choosing if they want to allow exposure to their children to potentially inappropriate, damaging and confusing content. Why is it okay for libraries to not have any viewership protections for our children?

These parents' concerns had nothing to do with "discrimination" or "hate" or "equity". It was about protecting their children.

The bill is misrepresenting parents as being "discriminatory." It's just propaganda so they can have total control on what our kids are being taught in schools.

#2 TAKING AWAY THE DEMOCRATIC PROCESS

Oregon is seeing an influx of kids leaving the public schools.

"The drop in enrollment shows Oregon schools have shrunk by thousands of students over the last four years...ODE officials said the move to distance learning may have led to a decline in enrollment in the early years of the pandemic, but 'it is concerning that Oregon has not yet experienced any enrollment rebound after largely returning to in-person instruction'." - <https://www.opb.org/article/2023/02/14/oregon-school-enrollment-concerning-still-dropping-but-slower-rate/>

And if this bill passes, it will continue to get worse, as parents see they increasingly have no say regarding potentially controversial and inappropriate materials being

presented to their children in public schools.

This bill takes away our democratic process as loving parents to provide feedback on our children's school materials.

Parents matter. In fact parental involvement in their children's education should be encouraged and celebrated, not punished.

With how much time our kids are in school away from home, public schools/educators are essentially raising OUR kids...which is even more of a reason as to why parents should have a voice.

Taking away parents' voices is nothing short of being a tyrant.