

February 13, 2024

Members of the Senate Education Committee,

I encourage you to pass SB 1583. As has happened a number of times in our past, there is a new movement afoot in our country to ban books that are considered somehow subversive.

These past book banning movements were usually connected to political and religious extremism. Some of the targets of past book banning have been non-Christian religions, anti-slavery, labor history, women's equality, sexual health information, environmental information, minority political views, etc.

The current book banning movement seems to be focused on gender identity, and different aspects of examining racism.

These book banning movements eventually fade, but they exact a price on First Amendment rights, on tolerance, and on whether we have an informed public and electorate.

Please pass SB 1583 in order to protect our public schools from this current book banning movement.

Sincerely,

Roscoe Caron
Eugene