

Submitter: Lora Worden
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Education
Measure: SB1583

As the parent of a future Oregon public school student, I support SB1583.

I wish to ensure that my child has access to reliable resources from multiple perspectives so that she may learn about our state and our nation's complex history.

I want my child to learn about both the struggles and the contributions of her ancestors, to learn about contemporary and historical figures who share parts of her identity, and also to learn about contemporary and historical figures who are not like her at all.

I want my daughter to have access to stories that she's proud of and stories that make her pause and think about what could be done differently.

If we don't hear stories about people who are like us, how can we feel compassion for ourselves? How can we feel pride? How can we learn that we are not alone?

And if we don't hear stories about people who are not like us, how can we feel compassion for them? How can we understand their struggle or celebrate their triumphs? How can we build relationships and help make positive changes?

Terry Tempest Williams wrote, "Finding beauty in a broken world is creating beauty in the world we find."

I want my daughter to learn about the world in all its brokenness and beauty.

I trust trained educators— librarians, classroom teachers, specialist teachers, and other school personnel— to offer her a rich array of reliable, relatable resources so that she can do just that.

For this reason, I support SB1583.