



Oregon Council for the Social Studies

P. O. Box 2131 • Salem, Oregon 97308-2131

February 13, 2024

Dear Members of the Senate Committee on Education:

I am writing to express our strong support for Senate Bill 1583, which prohibits discrimination in the selection of textbooks, instructional materials, program materials, and library books in Oregon's public schools.

The Oregon Social Studies Council (OCSS) is a professional organization dedicated to supporting and building community among Oregon Social Studies educators. We believe that all students deserve access to inclusive and culturally sustaining curricula that represent the diverse experiences and contributions of all individuals and groups. Senate Bill 1583 aligns perfectly with our mission and vision, which center around:

- **Culturally sustaining pedagogies:** Recognizing and honoring the cultural backgrounds and experiences of all students.
- **Justice-focused practices:** Promoting social justice and equity in education.
- **Civic-minded learning:** Preparing students to be active and engaged citizens.

Senate Bill 1583 is essential for achieving these goals by ensuring that:

- **Students have access to a diverse range of perspectives and narratives.** This is crucial for developing critical thinking skills, empathy, and understanding of the world around them.
- **Educators are empowered to create inclusive and representative learning environments.** This fosters a sense of belonging for all students and helps them see themselves reflected in the curriculum.
- **Schools comply with Oregon's anti-discrimination laws.** This sends a clear message that all students are valued and respected, regardless of their background or identity.

We urge you to pass Senate Bill 1583 to ensure that all Oregon students have access to equitable and inclusive education. This bill is a critical step forward in promoting social justice and preparing our students to be informed and engaged citizens in a diverse and complex world.

Sincerely,

Jenoge Khatter, D. Ed.
President, Oregon Council for the Social Studies