

Submitter: Brenna Allen
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Education
Measure: SB1583

As a librarian, former educator, and Oregon resident, I encourage you to vote yes on SB1583. The US is experiencing an assault from several groups that are attempting to censor not only library materials, but curriculum materials in public schools. These groups are wrongly trying to label LGBTQIA+ materials as “pornography” in an attempt to censor constitutionally protected viewpoints from a community that is different from their own. This is blatant discrimination. At its heart, it is more than an assault on the LGBTQIA+ community, it is an attempt to keep all viewpoints that might challenge the current power structures in check.

It is important for students to not only see themselves, their families, and their communities reflected in their education and world for a sense of belonging, but to understand how we got here. History should not be whitewashed. Significant contributions to society by non-white, non-cisgender, non-heterosexual people should not be glossed over. This nation is a rich tapestry of those that have fought, struggled, survived, and overcame adversity. Knowing the horrors and triumphs from all angles and all voices in a culturally and linguistically appropriate manner makes stronger students and a stronger nation.

SB 1583 will prevent discrimination when selecting textbooks, instructional materials, program materials or library books in public schools. It will help prevent discriminatory attempts to ban and remove materials that are often only offensive to those that can't handle not being in control of others. SB1583 brings needed clarity to help schools and school boards comply with the prohibition on discrimination required by ORS 659.850.

Please pass SB 1583 with the proposed amendment from the Oregon Library Association.