

I wholeheartedly support SB 1583. It is vitally important that students see themselves reflected in instructional materials and library books. There is a need for greater clarity for educators as they choose these materials. Acknowledging LGBTQ relationships is no more about “teaching sex” or, worse yet, “grooming” students than is the acknowledgement of heterosexuality, as for example, in stories about families headed by a mother and father. Failure to educate students about historical and ongoing racism in our society may make some white students feel more comfortable but will do demonstrable harm to the many minority group students who will see their experiences even further marginalized. We need to do right by ALL our students. Let’s not criminalize the well-meaning teachers and librarians seeking to educate those students. Teaching is a challenging enough profession as it is. I urge you to pass SB 1583 with the proposed amendment from the Oregon Library Association.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Stanley