

Submitter: Allison B
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Education
Measure: SB1583

Dear Senate Education Committee,

I am writing today to support SB 1583. I am a parent of three young mixed-race children who attend public schools in Oregon. The reason I support SB 1583 is because it will prevent discrimination when selecting textbooks, instructional materials, program materials or library books in public schools and hope that you will vote to support the bill when it comes up for a vote (in committee/on the floor). SB1583 brings needed clarity to help schools and school boards comply with the prohibition on discrimination required by ORS 659.850.

The US is experiencing an explosion of attempts to censor library and curriculum materials in our public schools, and Oregon is no exception. Many of these attempts are blatant in their opposition to LGBTQ+ and racially diverse materials. These censorship attempts intend to limit the materials available to Oregon students based solely on the constitutionally protected viewpoints of those materials. I believe SB 1583 will help prevent these book bans and removal attempts.

As a parent of mixed race kids, it is incredibly important for my kids to see themselves reflected in their community. This is vital for children in LGBTQ+ communities too. I believe it is critical to carefully select books, magazines, educational videos and experiences that reflect our student populations in a culturally and linguistically appropriate manner.

Thank you for supporting our kids by supporting SB 1583.