

Oregon State Legislature  
02/15/24

To whom it may concern,

I am supporting SB 1583 that 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. This legislature would directly support the ability of schools to comply with ORS 659.850 regarding discrimination and encourage across the state a welcoming and accepting environment in which all students have a right to learn. The intent of this action is to provide representation to marginalized groups so that children can see themselves, friends, or family members recognized in the materials available to them in their educational environment. We all 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.

With the drastic increase in attempts to censor available library and curriculum materials in our public schools in the US, it is now more important than ever to support legislature that enforces positive social change. To not do so would further drive the wedge of isolation and misunderstanding between members of differing social groups and encourage bias and discrimination. Many of these censorship attempts are blatant in their opposition to LGBTQ+ 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.

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

In solidarity,  
Madison Ashford (she/her)  
Early Childhood Specialist  
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