

Submitter: Julia Bynum Lewis
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Rules
Measure: SB1583

The U.S. has been experiencing a huge increase in book ban attempts in the last couple years including in Oregon. Many of these attempts are trying to remove books by or about LGBTQ+ and/or BIPOC people. We know it is important for every child to find representation of themselves in their school library. Having such representation improves their ability to learn and feel that important sense of belonging.

Removing these items takes away children's (and parents) choices of having actually diverse materials available to them. Removing these materials strengthens the message that we are trying to silence or erase LGBTQ+ and/or BIPOC voices.

Please support this bill to strengthen our non-discrimination laws and to help protect librarian's and parent's who are trying to stand fast in the face of those who don't even try to understand or read what these books are actually about. Thank you for your time and consideration.