



OREGON HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

March 5, 2024

RE: Testimony in opposition to SB 1583

Chair Fahey, Vice Chairs Helfrich and Kropf, and members of the House Committee on Rules:

I write to oppose Senate Bill 1583.

SB 1583 would expose school boards to sanctions from the Oregon Department of Education and legal action if they decide to apply age-appropriate filters in their library collections.

In other words, SB 1583 would – under the guise of "non-discrimination" – substitute the will of local school boards and the parents and voters that elected them, for that of the Legislature's and the Department of Education. This would, in effect, silence the voices of parents and their local school board if they have objections to obscene content in their libraries.

There has been a lot of controversy in recent years about the graphic, even sometimes downright pornographic, nature of some books in school libraries. In response, parents have petitioned their local school boards to remove these books from their library shelves. Under this bill, the school board may no longer have the power to be responsive to parents' voices.

State and federal law is already clear: discrimination by any governmental body is illegal, including how school districts select their materials. SB 1583 only serves to muddy the waters and act as a "chilling effect" on school boards and parents who might object to obscene materials in their classrooms and libraries.

Local school boards and the families that elect them should keep control over what is in their libraries. I urge the committee to reject SB 1583.

Respectfully submitted into the House record,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Shelly Boshart Davis'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Shelly Boshart Davis
Oregon State Representative
District 15