

Submitter: Laurie Caplan
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Rules
Measure: SB1583

When people want to ban books, I always wonder what they're afraid of. If people hadn't shared new ideas and information over the centuries, we would not have electricity, fresh food in winter, indoor plumbing, widespread literacy, and democracy. It appears Republicans oppose literacy and democracy because they seem to think most of us are too dumb, ignorant, or nonconforming to their ideas to think for ourselves. Aha! There it is: perhaps Republican legislators don't want us to think for ourselves: to sort out truth from lies, to have opinions about legislation and legislators, to advocate for programs and positions opposed by Republicans, to be informed about many issues, including current events, climate change, reproductive rights, and Christian nationalism. Perhaps those legislators are arrogant enough to believe they should choose what we can and cannot read. For shame!

Even in rural Oregon we know it's up to us -especially to voters - to safeguard our freedoms against book bans, censorship, authoritarianism, bigotry, corruption, and an American theocracy being promoted by Republicans throughout our country. I'm counting on Oregon's legislators to safeguard our freedoms, too. Please vote YES on SB 1583.