

Submitter: Linda Campillo
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Rules
Measure: SB1583

Our country is experiencing an explosion of attempts to censor library and curriculum materials in our public schools, and Oregon is no exception to this unfortunate trend. It's hard to believe that the science fiction story lines of a Big Brother controlling what people can think and read is becoming a reality. Those who oppose the freedom to read are attempting to obliterate the various cultures and lives that people enjoy in our society both today and throughout history and in doing so they are censoring valuable materials. Many couch their discriminatory intent in seemingly innocuous catchphrases such as "parental rights" or "sexually explicit materials." Whatever language is used, these coordinated censorship attempts clearly intend to limit the library and curricular materials available to Oregon students based solely on the constitutionally protected viewpoints of those materials. SB1583 brings needed clarity to help schools and school boards comply with the prohibition on discrimination required by ORS 659.850.

Occasionally reasons exist to remove books from a library or classroom collection such as outdated information, or worn or damaged materials. However, removal for reasons that discriminate against protected classes of persons is unconstitutional. Educating students for our globally connected 21st century world requires that they have the opportunity to freely explore ideas and viewpoints. Restricting their access to information resources impedes this important aspect of their education. Our founding fathers understood the necessity of this freedom to explore ideas when they enshrined the freedom of expression in the very first amendment to the U.S. Constitution. The courts have consistently upheld the corollary right to freely read, view,

and receive information, including for minor children in the school setting. SB1583 provides guardrails to help schools and school boards avoid such unconstitutional discrimination in library and curricular resources. I urge you to support SB 1583 in its current form.