

Submitter: Erin Taggart  
On Behalf Of: Wallowa County  
Committee: House Committee On Rules  
Measure: SB1583

Dear Oregon Law Makers,

As a mother and youth advocate here in Wallowa County I strongly urge you to vote no on SB 1583. Raising my children in Rural Eastern Oregon is a choice that my husband and I have made because we believe in a system where we vote on our local officials and school board members. Every community is unique and individualized and best serves and educates their students in a way that is culturally appropriate. The culture that I see in rural communities is one which takes time to listen to the family and students needs. One that takes time to find the correct book and instructional language to educate and fill the needs of our students. WE ARE NOT RAISING ROBOTS! We are raising boys and girls to become young men and women who are educated both in textbook and life skills, who know right from wrong, and who are empowered to go out into the world to make their own decision. We are raising our future leaders who I pray have a mind of their own and the discernment to make their own choices.

We are blessed to live in beautiful Oregon in the United States of America where we the individual citizens of our great country have the right to vote for our local government including our local town officials and school board members. Generations have fought and laid down their lives to give me this right to raise my children in a state where I as a voter have that power. Please DO NOT rob myself and my family of that right.

I plead you to vote NO on SB 1583 and continue to give our local officials within our schools to have the right to select instructional materials that best fit the needs of our students in our community while still staying accountable to the other rules and regulations set forth by Oregon Department of Education.