

Submitter: Jill Brandt  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: House Committee On Rules  
Measure: SB1583

The reason this bill has been written is because some parents have been successful at petitioning their school board to have certain books removed from the school libraries that contained material inappropriate for children (some argue this material is inappropriate for any age, myself included, but I digress). Some people are incorrectly calling this "discrimination" instead of what it is, "discernment," "protection of innocent children," and "the voice of the people." This explicit material is not something most adults are comfortable with, but adults can choose to consume it or not. However, no child should ever, EVER be exposed to these things, and nothing of this nature should be in any public school, anywhere, ever. Tragically, the truth is that these obscene stories and images are in public school libraries all over the state. As parents are becoming aware of this, they are petitioning their local school boards to have these removed. Some claim that this is "discrimination." We call it discernment. Discernment about what's appropriate for innocent children with developing brains.

As someone with a background in Neuroscience and who worked for over a decade in the medical industry, I am very passionate about disease prevention, such as prevention of cancer, dementia, diabetes, etc. Addiction is also a disease that is completely preventable - and the number one way to prevent it is to not be exposed to it in the first place. Pornography is an insidious addiction that ruins people's minds, ruins relationships, and because of the increasingly excessive dopamine hits to the brain, it causes the same type of brain damage as cocaine addiction. What a horrible thing to do to a child to let them see these pornographic images at their age when they cannot comprehend the long-lasting effects and damage that can ensue.

People within a school board district vote for their school board members, and as such, they should have the ability to petition their school board directly for their local needs and wants, without top-down control from the state. If SB1583 passes, parental voices will be silenced and local school boards will be hamstrung.

How on God's green planet does this bill constitute an emergency?????? That is completely nonsensical. It is actually an emergency that Oregon's children are being exposed to these explicit, inappropriate, obscene, immoral pornographic and perverse stories and images, by the hands of those who should be protecting them from such.

Let's get back to basics in education - reading, writing, arithmetic, history, civics, science, art, music, etc. - and leave sexuality out of the classroom.

Vote NO on SB1583.