

Submitter: Michael Berry
On Behalf Of: Self
Committee: House Committee On Rules
Measure: SB1583

March 6, 2024

RE: Written Testimony Opposing SB 1583

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

I encourage you to kill Senate Bill 1583. At least remove SECTION 5- the much-abused "emergency clause".

The text of the bill seems benign enough- if read literally through a lens that is optimistic and naive. But, we know better. Central authority would replace local control, and that is not good. A good example of act by a central authority that does not seem to be in touch with the people over which it exerts its authority was provided by Oregon's unelected Environmental Quality Commission (an entity that came out of Governor Kate Brown's Executive Order No. 20-04). It mandated that all new cars sold within Oregon's borders must be "emissions-free" by 2035. This sort of edict demonstrates ignorance about how the world works, and about the lives that many people in the state lead. Serious unintended consequences are likely to occur. I digress.

It seems reasonable to assume that if SB 1583 is passed, similar out-of-touch harmful actions by Oregon Department of Education are more likely than not.

Back to the bill.

In SECTION 2- "The district school board shall cause the textbooks or other instructional materials, according to titles, that are included on the list adopted under subsection (1) of this section to be used in its schools at the beginning of the next school year following the state adoption under ORS 337.141, except when, pursuant to rules of the State Board of Education, the district school board is authorized by the Superintendent of Public Instruction to postpone use for a reasonable period of time." Call me a conspiracy theorist, but this would seem to force a rapid phase-out of vetted, traditional materials and hasten the implementation of new materials. Essentially, it would seem to facilitate the rapid re-writing of history.

In SECTION 3- "The State Board of Education shall stimulate the development of

nondiscriminatory courses of study or parts of courses to improve instructional effectiveness or efficiency in public elementary and secondary schools in Oregon. The board may direct the Department of Education or contract with appropriate public educational agencies to develop program materials and to establish a mechanism for the purpose of introducing the materials and implementing the techniques."

The State Board would be running the show across the state. I think this would be highly undesirable.

It has been said- "Unless it is stopped, the woke mind virus will destroy civilization..." This may be a bit hyperbolic, but it may be wise to listen to the concern conveyed.

Again, I encourage you to kill Senate Bill 1583. At least remove SECTION 5- the much-abused "emergency clause". Please vote against it if and when it goes to the floor for a vote.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit witten testimony.

Michael S. (Mike) Berry
Concerned Citizen of USA and Oregon