

TO: Senate Committee on Education

DATE: 3/6/2024

FROM: Stewart Jones  
RE: Support for SB1583

Chair Dembrow, Vice Chair Weber & and Members of the Senate Committee on Education,

Please support SB1583, which will prohibit discrimination based on the race, religion, ability, country of origin, sexuality, or gender of the individuals featured in the content of educational and library materials in public elementary and secondary schools in Oregon.

Those who do not wish to read a book or have their children read a book are free to censor themselves and their children, but those of us who wish to be free and have the opportunity to discover new ideas should be free to access them.

This bill creates a statewide standard ensuring freedom of information both to users of that information, as well as providers of that information, for example librarians and educators. It also ensures people have access to accurate and representative information about their histories, communities and selves, and creates more room for understanding over prejudice in Oregon.

I hope you will vote YES to support and advance SB1583.

Thank you,

Stewart Jones, rural Joseph, Oregon