

Submitter: Carolyn Westerback
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Education
Measure: SB1583

I applaud any school district that honors a diverse set of books and curriculum, honoring often overlooked contributors and peoples in a nondiscriminatory way. However, this bill thwarts our democracy and usurps the power of local school boards in ways that are reminiscent of totalitarian governments. It is similar to the Nazi's inserting themselves in the schools and forcing biology classes to become about "race science" and geography to become "geopolitics". The description of this bill is disingenuous. It is not merely to prevent discrimination but actually is an order to comply with state ordered content. This is a shocking trampling of the rights of voters in selecting school boards and will create an absolute mess and unnecessary workload for teachers as they try to navigate acceptable materials. How can you not see how anti-teacher this bill is?! Also, by declaring a state of emergency, you are not only diluting the nature of true emergencies, but revealing that this bill is an obvious tactic to circumvent discussion and local government. If you are going to declare any state of emergency, it should be about the terrible outcomes our kids are having in Oregon schools, the rates of graduation, reading and math skills, etc. Oregon is at the bottom of the list on many educational fronts. This is where your time and efforts need to focus.