

My fellow Oregonians-

I am writing to express my strong support for SB 1583, which aims to prohibit discrimination in selecting textbooks, instructional materials, program materials, or library books for Oregon's public schools. This bill is not just about ensuring fairness; it's about upholding honesty and truth in education.

Let's be real and face it. Oregon has a painful history rooted in white supremacist ideology, a legacy that has deeply scarred communities, and perpetuates inequalities to this day. How can we expect our children to learn to do better when whitewashed libraries are the standard? Do you have any idea how difficult it is to find representation of indigenous Two Spirit people? Public schools need access to the truth. We can't keep trying to pretend there are only two genders when biologists, psychologists, anthropologists, and sociologists have proven otherwise.

Genocides on this land have tried, and failed, to exterminate the original inhabitants.

How will we rectify our history when so many people would prefer our public schools be places that promote religious ideology? It's time for us to acknowledge this past and take concrete steps to rectify the injustices that still persist today.

One glaring example of ongoing injustice is the continued operation of Chemawa Residential School. The biased literature and curriculum can perpetuate harmful stereotypes and contribute to the modern-day horrors experienced by indigenous communities.

By passing SB 1583, we can ensure that our education system promotes inclusivity, diversity, and accuracy. Every student deserves access to materials that reflect the richness and complexity of our society, free from discrimination and bias. This bill is essential for promoting inclusivity, understanding, and respect for all individuals' identities and experiences.

NEWSFLASH: Queer kids grow up to be queer adults - even when they have no access to representation. The only difference is that a lack of representation makes us internalize the idea that we're inherently wrong or perverse by simply existing.

By prohibiting discrimination in public school textbooks, you can help save lives and improve the quality of life for underrepresented people.

I urge you to stand with the residents of Oregon who have had enough of these types of systemic discrimination and support SB 1583. Let's work together to create a more just and equitable future for all.

Sincerely,  
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