

I am writing to encourage you to support the passage of SB 1583. As a certified school librarian, I engage regularly with students about their educational materials needs. It is imperative that school libraries are able to provide materials that tell the full history of our home state, not including the stories of those people that have been historically excluded from written educational materials. Our schools should strive to teach the whole history, not the white-washed history like "George Washington could not tell a lie." Students would be able to find materials that showcase them and their lives so they can continue to learn and grow with appropriate materials not finding misinformation on the internet. This is particularly important as students who often do not have the freedom to access a bookstore or do not have the ability or means to take themselves to a public library. Beyond the issue of access, I believe this bill would alleviate some of the stress faced by school library workers for simply doing their job. As national political interests have focused attention on schools and libraries, our school and public library staff in Oregon and around the United States are facing harassment, threats, increased security and safety issues. My hope is that this bill would help to mitigate some of the personal attacks that library staff have had to endure in carrying out their work.