

Hello,

I am writing in support of SB 1583, which will prevent discrimination when selecting instructional materials, including textbooks, program materials, or library books in public schools. I hope that you will vote to support the bill when it comes up for a vote.

SB1583 provides much-needed clarity designed to help schools and school boards comply with the prohibition on discrimination required by ORS 659.850.

The US is experiencing an explosion of attempts to censor library and curriculum materials in our public schools, and Oregon is no exception. Many of these attempts are blatant in their opposition to LGBTQ+ materials. These censorship attempts intend to limit the materials available to Oregon students based solely on the constitutionally protected viewpoints of those materials. I believe SB 1583 will help prevent these book bans and removal attempts that are based in discriminatory opinion.

As a librarian, I know it is important for students to see themselves reflected in their community and the materials available to them. I believe it is critical to carefully select books, magazines, educational videos, and provide services and experiences that reflect our student populations in a culturally and linguistically appropriate manner.

Please pass SB 1583 with the proposed amendment from the Oregon Library Association.

Sincerely,

Justine Munds