

Submitter: Kimberly Olson Charles
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Education
Measure: SB1583

Dear Senate Committee-

I would like to register my support for SB 1583. As stated in the bill as introduced, the intention of this bill is to comply with ORS 659.850 – discrimination in education is prohibited. SB 1583 provides clarity in implementing ORS 659.850 around the selection of instruction materials, library books and other teaching materials. This bill DOES NOT reduce parental rights as is argued in many of the opposition letters. As line 13 (c) pg 2 states, The district school board shall adopt the list in compliance with ORS 337.141 and shall involve parents and citizens in the process.

I am a parent of 3 now young adult children, and I have always felt that it isn't my right to limit what other children read. I didn't want anyone to tell my kids what they could read or not. That is between the child and their parents. The parent can have that conversation with their own child about what they are reading, that is always the parent's right. This bill does not take parent's rights away.

I am also a librarian in an academic library in Eastern Oregon and I know that students read diverse books for academic purposes and for fun to learn more about other perspectives because it helps them to understand themselves, their values, and understand those around them.

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