

Submitter: Patricia Givens
On Behalf Of: Myself
Committee: Senate Committee On Education
Measure: SB1583

- I am supporting SB 1583 because it will prevent discrimination when selecting textbooks, instructional materials, program materials or library books in public schools. I hope t you will vote to support the bill when it comes up for a vote.
- I respect the right of parents to limit books their own children read, but parents should not impose their preferences on others through pressuring school boards to act in a discriminatory way. Have faith in trained professional librarians and educators to do their jobs well. Do not place content-based restrictions on them. Do not fall for baseless conspiracy theories. Libraries serve as guardians of our collective memory, and should not be forced to exclude certain groups' stories and history from library collections just because some people are uncomfortable with their inclusion.
- SB1583 brings needed clarity 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.
- It is important for students to see themselves reflected in their community. We believe it is critical to carefully select books, magazines, educational videos and experiences that reflect our student populations in a culturally and linguistically appropriate manner.
- We want to make sure that important educational texts and materials are available to those students who need it.
- Please pass SB 1583 with the proposed amendment from the Oregon Library Association.