

Submitter: Anna Skinner
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Education
Measure: SB1583

I'm writing in strong support of SB 1583, which will prevent discrimination in selecting textbooks, instructional materials, program materials or library books in public schools, and hope that you will vote to support the bill.

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 upsurge in 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.

As a longtime community member and former librarian, I believe it's so important for students to see themselves reflected in their community. Librarians must be able to select books, magazines, educational videos and experiences that reflect their student populations in a culturally and linguistically appropriate manner.

Please help ensure that important educational texts and materials are available to those students who need it by passing SB 1583 with the proposed amendment from the Oregon Library Association.

Sincerely,
Anna Skinner