

Submitter: H Eberhardt

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Education

Measure: SB1583

I support Oregon Senate Bill 1583 which prohibits discrimination in the selection of textbooks, instructional materials, program materials or library books that are used in the public schools of this state.

I support SB1583 and ensuring an inclusive and equitable learning environment for ALL students. All students deserve to see themselves, their families, and histories represented accurately, with respect and humanity. Scientific studies show that representation and exposure to experiences different from our own foster empathy, healthy relationships, and improved self-esteem, all of which are critical skills and values in today's world. Omitting material doesn't change the lived realities and histories of people, it only increases ignorance and makes students ill-equipped to meaningfully engage with their life and other people. Discriminatory omission of viewpoints and banning books harms students and are dangerous precedents that we don't want in Oregon (or anywhere).