

Submitter: Taylor Carver
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Education
Measure: SB1583
TO: Senate Committee on Education
RE: Support for SB1583

Chair Dembrow, Vice Chair Weber & and Members of the Senate Committee on Education,

My name is Taylor and I am writing to urge you to support SB1583, which will prohibit discrimination based on the race, religion, ability, country of origin, sexuality, or gender of the individuals featured in the content of educational and library materials in public elementary and secondary schools in Oregon.

In Oregon, we have seen countless efforts to ban books that feature LGBTQIA2S+ topics or individuals and restrict access for students to understand the positive contributions of individuals of marginalized identities who have contributed to our society. This bill creates a statewide standard ensuring freedom of information both to users of that information, as well as providers of that information, for example librarians and educators. It also ensures people have access to accurate and representative information about their histories, communities and selves, and creates more room for understanding over prejudice in Oregon.

As parent of a child attending a public elementary school in Washington County, I know how important it is for not only children but everyone to see their stories reflected in the books they read, and to know that they are not alone. Books have the ability to help us better understand ourselves and others. I support this bill so that our children can have access to all histories and cultures, and so my child's educators are not limited in the books they can access because of political whims.

SB1583 does not change any individual parent's or guardian's right to monitor or oversee what their own children read or view. It does protect the rights of ALL parents and guardians for their children to have access to diverse representation in materials and history taught in the school setting.

Please vote YES to support and advance SB1583.