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To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing this letter to show my support for SB 1583 that will prevent discrimination when selecting textbooks, instructional materials, program materials, or library books in public schools.

This is my fifth year as a school librarian, and it is important now more than ever that we do not place restrictions on materials for our students. We are a nation built upon diversity, and by limiting access to content and materials that showcase a diverse community, we are essentially saying it is not OK to be different. Every day in school, we tell the students to be their true selves, be proud of who you are, and to be kind to everyone. If we do not accept the differences of others when it comes to educating our students, we are suppressing their individual identities. We need to select materials that represent everyone that makes up our unique community of learners.

Students need to see themselves reflected in materials used in schools- it is called the mirror effect. Students need to see someone like themselves reflected in books, educational materials, and represented in curriculum. We want to make sure the curriculum, book selection and educational materials are selected for ALL students. We need to select materials that is reflected and inclusive of our communities and are schools. Students need to see acceptance so they too they too can accept others.

I believe SB 1583 will help prevent these book bans and removal attempts. Book banning has exploded all over the nation, and Oregon is no exception. Please help to pass SB 1583 so we as educators can back up what we preach to our students about diversity, inclusion, and kindness. Let students see themselves in the pages of books, learn to accept others, and celebrate our unique and diverse backgrounds. That is what makes the United States so great- our diverse cultural populations.

Thank you for your consideration and support,

Miranda Hunt