

I am writing in support of SB 1583. I am deeply concerned about the significant increase in attempts to censor library and curriculum materials around the country. Various libraries in Oregon have seen increases in book challenges in recent years. Sadly, many of these challenges are clearly in opposition to LBBTQ+ materials (although certainly not limited to this subject matter). 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. I don't want to see Oregon go the direction that we have seen in other states recently with restricting materials that can be used and what can be taught in schools, as well as removing books from school libraries.

SB1583 brings needed clarity to help schools and school boards comply with the prohibition on discrimination required by ORS 659.850. As a librarian, I am aware of how important it is for students to see themselves reflected in their community. I 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.

Please pass SB 1583 with the proposed amendment from the Oregon Library Association.