

Submitter: Amy Stark  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Senate Committee On Education  
Measure: SB1583

Dear Senate Committee on Education,

I am writing a letter of support for SB 1583 that will prevent discrimination when selecting textbooks, instructional materials, program materials or library books in public schools and hope that you will vote to support the bill when it comes up for a vote (in committee/on the floor).

The US is experiencing an explosion of 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 parent and a member of the LGBTQ+ community, I know it is important 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.

I want to make sure that important educational texts and materials are available to those students who need it. A friend from high school once told me that access to a book about various types of relationships helped save his life, because before discovering that his sexual orientation was normal, he felt alone and deeply ashamed in our small community.

Parents who wish to discriminate against people from other cultures should not be the only voice in how materials are selected for shared, public libraries. As a mother of a teenager, I accept that I do not control my son nor do I have ownership over his mind. I also fervently believe no other parent should be allowed to dictate what my child can or cannot read when it comes to culturally and linguistically appropriate materials that reflect constitutionally protected viewpoints.

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

Sincerely,

Amy Stark