

Submitter: Maya Voorhies  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Senate Committee On Education  
Measure: SB1583

I support SB 1583 and hope that you will vote to support the bill.

I know how important it is for students to see themselves represented in books and materials in schools. I know this because as a child, I didn't see my family or myself in anything at school. I grew up feeling othered as a result.

Now as an elementary school teacher I truly understand just how important it is for children to see themselves in read alouds and textbooks. Books create windows and mirrors for everyone, especially young learners. Windows to see into other cultures and develop empathy and compassion; mirrors to see yourself, your family, to feel validated for who you are.

On behalf of the lonely little girl I was and all of my students and the countless others who deserve to feel like they matter- Please pass SB 1583 with the proposed amendment from the Oregon Library Association.

With gratitude.