

Submitter: Kelly McElroy
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Education
Measure: SB1583

Good afternoon.

I support SB 1583, which 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). SB1583 brings needed clarity to help schools and school boards comply with the prohibition on discrimination required by ORS 659.850.

All across our state and this nation, we have seen school libraries become the target of coordinated attacks on school libraries, particularly seeking to remove books that share the stories and experiences of people of color and LGBTQIA people. I believe SB 1583 will help prevent these book bans and removal attempts.

I am a librarian, and my mother was a teacher librarian. As librarians, we know that our collections reflect and support our communities of users, and they must support their growth as well. Librarians are trained to choose materials carefully, representing many viewpoints and perspectives on wide ranging, and for schools, age-appropriate content.

We want to make sure that important educational texts and materials are available to those students who need it -- that is why we work in libraries.

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