

Submitter: Robert Kohl
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Education
Measure: SB1583

A resurgence of attacks on the freedom to read threatens our democracy.?

The US is experiencing an explosion of attempts to censor library and curriculum materials in our public schools, and Oregon is no exception. 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.

We have a responsibility to prepare the young to meet the diversity of experiences in life to which they will be exposed; a responsibility to help them learn to think critically for themselves. Part of that responsibility includes ensuring that important, age-appropriate educational texts and materials are available to students.

I am supporting 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). SB1583 brings needed clarity to help schools and school boards comply with the prohibition on discrimination required by ORS 659.850.

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