

Submitter: Christopher McLaran  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Senate Committee On Education  
Measure: SB1583

I oppose legislation that takes rights away from the local community to make choices regarding curriculum. This bill would eliminate the power of the local School Board to make decisions around curriculum if the state believes it discriminates against towards the following groups:

- [(1)] (a) Are Native American;
- [(2)] (b) Are of European, African, Asian, Pacific Island, Chicano, Latino, Middle Eastern or Jewish descent;
- [(3)] (c) Have disabilities;
- [(4)] (d) Are immigrants or refugees; or
- [(5)] (e) Are lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender.

While the bill attempts to do a good thing. The solution the bill proposes, effectively eliminates the ability for the local school board to recognize whether the subject matter of the books are appropriate for a youthful audience. The subject of the books would be protected by the state's view of discrimination by the "roles and contributions of any individual or group identified in the subsection"...(the list above). This effectively protects the subjects of the books from these groups, whether they are right or wrong.

It is not the groups that I believe parents oppose, it is the subject matters and ideas that are brought up within those books that should be debated at a local level. This bill would eliminate debate at a local level, making it more difficult for parents to feel they have some control over what their children are taught in public schools. These groups shouldn't have a free pass to indoctrinate public schools with subjects that are outside the scope of the public school's mission to teach kids reading, writing and math. More complex political ideologies and lifestyle commentaries should be left to higher education.