

Submitter: Kaci Elder
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Education
Measure: SB1583

Dear legislators,

I am writing with strong support for SB 1583, which prevents discrimination in the subject matter of books used in Oregon's classrooms and school libraries. Book bans are anti-American and akin to throwing books into the fires of 1984. I am a parent of two teenagers and I also teach English Literature and Social Studies at a local high school. In both my family and classroom, we are comfortable with honest histories that recognize both the accomplishments and regrets of our state's and nation's history and culture. My family's ancestry is White and European. We are capable of holding both the heaviness of colonialism, racism, red-lining, etc., as well as pride, respect, and love for our European and immigrant heritage. History is complicated. Whitewashing the past doesn't erase the past. The only effect is preventing our children from learning from our mistakes.

Sincerely,
Kaci Elder
O'Brien, Oregon