

I oppose SB 1583. Senate Bill 1583 infringes on local control of public education and limits parents' rights to guide their children's education in accordance with their values and beliefs.

School boards play a crucial role in representing the values and preferences of local constituents. Mandating specific content requirements for textbooks and instructional materials undermines the authority of school boards to make informed decisions that best serve the needs of their students and communities.

Furthermore, Senate Bill 1583 limits parents' rights to guide their children's education in accordance with their values and beliefs. Parents have a fundamental right to be actively involved in their children's education and to make decision that align with their family's values and cultural beliefs. By prohibiting school boards from opposing any materials that include the roles of specific groups, this bill restricts parent's ability to influence content and direction of their children's education.

Additionally, I am concerned about the potential consequences of mandating the inclusion of specific content related to gender identity and sexual orientation in elementary and middle school curriculum. Parents should have the right to determine when and how their children are exposed to topics such as these. Mandating such content in instructional material infringes on parent's rights to guide their children's development in accordance with their own beliefs and values.

Educational content should be determined based on academic rigor, relevance and the expertise of educators rather than mandated by legislative fiat. Additionally, it is fundamentally dishonest to try to rewrite history to serve political or social objectives. This is in fact what SB 1583 seeks to do.

For these reasons and many others, please vote no on this bill.