

Submitter: William Herz MD
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Education
Measure: SB1583

For over 40 years, I have worked as a psychiatrist serving community mental health centers in central and southeast Oregon. The counties I served had some of the most remote rural communities in the state. All students growing up in remote communities who are members of minority groups, including racial, cultural, sexual and altered abilities, are particularly vulnerable to the isolation and the difficulty in accessing information about others who are like themselves. Schools and public libraries provide essential sources of this needed information. Any attempts to restrict this information from students who need it seriously risks their ability to experience healthy mental and physical development and significantly limits their opportunities to develop a sense of safety and self acceptance necessary for living fulfilling lives. Please support and pass this bill.