

I am writing in support of Senate Bill 1583. As a library staff and a person of color, I know how important it is to find books and resources that reflect authentic life experiences. I also believe that exposure to a variety of stories enhances our capacity for empathy and compassion. Having access to a wide range of books and resources also promotes discussion and critical thinking. Students also become more engaged in their own learning as they relate to the characters and experiences more. Our society depends on cultivating young minds so they grow to be active citizens.

Passing SB 1583 ensures that school libraries and public libraries in Oregon remain safe spaces for knowledge and discovery for ALL.

Thank you for your consideration.

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