

Senate Committee On Education

Senate Bill 1583 (Support)

15 February 2024

Chair Dembrow, Vice-Chair Weber, and members of the committee,

My name is Freddy Finney-Jordet; I use he/him. I'm a student at Willamette University, and a member of the Queer community. **I'm writing in strong support of SB1583.**

I'm very glad to see SB1583 come before this committee. I appreciate that this bill does not require schools to include any specific materials, but rather simply prohibits administrators from excluding materials because those materials include marginalized groups in some way.

To be frank, this seems like a no-brainer. If the bill required schools to meet some kind of quota, I could almost understand the opposition, but this bill does not do that. It doesn't even come close.

This bill is vital. **I cannot imagine the stress it would have put on my education if, as a Queer kid in public schools, I had seen materials be carted out of our school library simply because they acknowledged the existence of people like me.**

This bill protects students from discriminatory decisions that are taking place across the country. In my view, the increase in discrimination in school material selection is part of recently increasing widespread attempted erasure of marginalized people. For this reason, SB1583 is a crucial bill to pass this session.

I thank this committee for its work on this bill, and urge you to support and prioritize SB1583, all the way to its passage.

Thank you for your time.

Freddy (he/him)

Student, Willamette University