

Submitter: Dana Stroud  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: House Committee On Rules  
Measure: SB1583

As a mental health therapist who works with many LGBTQ+ youth in Oregon, I hear all too many stories about harassment and discrimination from the front lines. Many of these behaviors can be changed through adequate information and knowledge regarding the community. With Book Bans happening across the USA, we are critically in need for protections regarding what reading materials are available. SB1583 is a commonsense, values-based bill to curb discriminatory book bans and censorship in Oregon's public schools. As you know, there are a vocal but small number of people with extreme views are pushing for book bans in Oregon and across the country. The vast majority of material that is challenged features Black, Indigenous, AAPI, Latinx, or women authors or characters, information about racism and slavery, LGBTQ+ identities and experiences, and sex-related education. We need to take swift action to protect book freedom.

Please support our youth, and our communities that have been most marginalized through this meaningful bill.

Thank you,  
Dana Stroud (they/them)