

Submitter: Sara Thompson  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: House Committee On Rules  
Measure: SB1583

TO: House Committee on Rules  
FROM: Sara Thompson, Deschutes Public Library  
RE: Support for SB1583A  
Date: Monday, March 4, 2024

Chair Fahey, Vice Chairs Helfrich and Kropf and Members of the House Committee on Rules,

My name is Sara Thompson, I am a resident of Bend, Oregon for twelve years and a librarian for the past twenty years and I care about the freedom to read. Today I am testifying to urge your support of SB1583A, which will prohibit discrimination based on the race, religion, ability, country of origin, sexuality, or gender of the individuals featured in the content of educational and library materials in public elementary and secondary schools in Oregon.

All students deserve to see themselves represented in the books, materials, and classrooms they learn from and to learn about diverse communities and people. Book bans are tactics used by small groups of extremists to erase and silence the voices, lived experiences, and histories of our most marginalized communities.

I support SB1583A because I don't want any more kids taking their own lives due to feeling isolated and rejected when they can't find stories about other people living the same experience.

Students do not lose their constitutional rights to freedom of speech or expression at the schoolhouse gates and book bans and censorship have no place in Oregon schools. Please support the freedom to read and learn by advancing SB1583A.  
Thank you, Sara Thompson