

Submitter: Marianne Coalson
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Rules
Measure: SB1583

I am writing in support of SB 1583 that will prevent discrimination when selecting textbooks, instructional materials, program materials or library books in public schools and hope that you will pass the bill this session to further strengthening our non-discrimination laws. SB1583 brings needed clarity to help schools and school boards comply with the prohibition on discrimination required by ORS 659.850.

The US is experiencing an explosion of attempts to censor library and curriculum materials in our public schools, and Oregon is no exception. Many of these attempts are blatant in their opposition to LGBTQ+ materials. These censorship attempts intend to limit the materials available to Oregon students based solely on the constitutionally protected viewpoints of those materials. I believe SB 1583 will help prevent these book bans and removal attempts.

As a librarian at a public library, I know it is important for students to see themselves reflected in their community. I believe it is critical to carefully select books, magazines, educational videos and experiences that reflect our student populations in a culturally and linguistically appropriate manner. As someone who grew up in Oregon attending public schools, I am deeply concerned with the recent attempts around the state to censor materials in our public schools and restrict access to information for those students who need it most.

Please pass SB 1583 and send it to the Governor's Desk before the session ends.