

Submitter: Lisa Verner
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Rules
Measure: SB1583

Lisa S. Verner, FAICP
Ashland, Oregon
lisaverner@alum.mit.edu

To: Chair Fahey, Vice-Chair Helfrich, Vice-Chair Kropf and Members of the
Committee
Date: March 5, 2024
RE: Support of SB 1583 A

On behalf of women across this state who have struggled to receive a complete and unbiased education, I express my strong support for Senate Bill 1583-A.

One of my core values is to treat women and girls fairly and without discrimination. This applies to education as well in areas such as jobs, finances, and housing. SB 1583 A would prohibit educational discrimination in the adoption of textbooks and other instructional material used in Oregon's public schools, including public elementary schools, secondary schools, and libraries. Administrators and other school officials whose responsibility is to choose textbooks and other instructional material would be prohibited from refusing to approve such material on the basis that it included or discussed stories, lives and achievements of people from a protected class.

Since women and girls are at least half of the population, it stands to reason they are at least half of the population of any group against whom discrimination is prohibited. It is clear that students do much better in school when they see and are introduced to others who look like them. Women and girls who have the advantage of a full range of ideas, opinions and stories during their education become thoughtful, critically thinking adults.

I support SB 1583 A and urge its passage by the House and signature by the Governor.

Respectfully submitted,
Lisa Verner, FAICP
Ashland, Oregon