

Submitter: Ernest Yagger  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: House Committee On Rules  
Measure: SB1583

TO: House Committee on Rules  
FROM: Ernie Yagger  
RE: Support for SB1583

Date: 3/06/2024

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

I would first like to thank the committee for reviewing my testimony,

My name is Ernie Yagger, a resident of Polk County and I am writing to urge you to support SB1583, 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.

As a retired educator and coach, I am saddened that such a bill has become necessary.

I am aware of the many current review policies that allow interested parties to object to content in schools and libraries. I have also seen it abused, by those who seem to wish to impose their views on others.

After reading testimony submitted in opposition to passage of this bill, it seems that there is not so much concern on what their child may read, as there is a desire to control what all others may read.

After reading the text of SB1583 I can see that in no way does it limit the rights of parents. If enacted it will stop these groups and individuals who seek to enforce their religious and cultural views in our state educational system.

In Oregon, we have seen countless efforts to ban books. This bill creates a statewide standard ensuring freedom of information both to users of that information, as well as providers of that information, for example librarians and educators. It also ensures people have access to accurate and representative information about their histories, communities and selves, and creates more room for understanding over prejudice in Oregon.

SB1583 does not change any individual parent's or guardian's right to monitor or

oversee what their own children read or view. It does protect the rights of ALL parents and guardians for their children to have access to diverse representation in materials and history taught in the school setting.

Again thank you for your time and consideration. Please vote YES to support and advance SB1583.

Ernie Yagger