

Submitter: Janice Karpenick  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: House Committee On Rules  
Measure: SB1583

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

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in strong support of SB 1583 without the -6 amendment.

It is hard to believe that we are in a place where banning hundreds of books is now commonplace in many areas of our country; Oregon should not be one of those places. Typically, just a handful of people have been behind banning dozens, if not hundreds of books, often without admittedly even reading them, and without having any background in education or library sciences. This practice only harms our children and their education.

Education should be inclusive of many different points of view, allowing for more informed decision making in a complex world. Education should also include accurate history; how do we move beyond our mistakes as a society and culture if we are unable to study them? How do we foster understanding and acceptance of all members of our society if we know little or nothing about them? The best education, I believe, is one that looks at different viewpoints and encourages critical thinking.

Parents who don't want their children to read certain books can prevent them from reading them; they have no right to prevent my children from reading them.

I strongly urge you to pass SB 1583 without the -6 amendment.

Thank you,  
Janice Karpenick