



March 5, 2024

House Rules Committee
Oregon State Legislature
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Testimony in Support of SB 1583

Chair Representative Fahey, Vice-Chair Representative Helfrich, Vice-Chair Representative Kropf, and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to share testimony. My name is Emily-Grace Cropper-Russel, I use she/her pronouns, I work as the Donor Engagement Officer with the ACLU of Oregon. The ACLU of Oregon's main organizational testimony is set out in the written testimony submitted by Mariana Garcia Medina, Senior Policy Associate, and Sandy Chung, Executive Director. Today, I am submitting this testimony because this issue matters to me personally. **I urge you to support Senate Bill 1583, which protects educators' and students' right to receive and exchange information and knowledge.**

I live in Newberg, and have worked in social services for the past 10 years.

Growing up, my parents saw fit to prevent me from reading some books my peers were reading. My parents chose to parent me how they saw fit, and they did not need book bans to parent me as they believed was best. SB 1583 will not prevent parents from parenting their children the way they see fit. This being said, SB 1583 is also clear that public school districts in Oregon cannot engage in discriminatory book bans, even if a smaller sect of parents wish to unreasonably and unlawfully impose this on the larger school community.

I am a parent, and my spouse and I are parenting our children consistent with our beliefs. I believe that all students benefit from having access to inclusive teaching where students can freely learn and talk about the history, viewpoints, and ideas of all communities in this country. And all young people deserve to be able to see themselves and the issues that impact them reflected in their classrooms and in the books they're reading.

SB 1583 will protect the First Amendment right to share ideas, including educators' and students' right to receive and exchange information and knowledge. Students and educators are not a monolith, having multiple ideas and perspectives to learn from is essential. All students have a First Amendment right to read and learn about the history and viewpoints of all communities — including their own identity — inside and outside of the classroom.

Thank you,

Emily-Grace Cropper-Russel



Donor Engagement Manager, ACLU Oregon