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Senate Republicans Defend Age-Appropriate Reading Material in Schools, Urge Democrats to Give This Polarizing Issue More Discussion in Future Sessions

SALEM, Ore. – Today, Senate Republicans voted to support age-appropriate reading materials for K-12 students in the Oregon public education system. **Senate Republican Leader Tim Knopp (R-Bend)** made a motion to adopt a minority report in place of SB 1583, which was voted down by all 17 Senate Democrats. It would have given more time to study and discuss this contentious issue in future sessions.

"The topic of what reading materials are available to students in public schools has been politicized across the country in recent years. One only need do a quick Google search to see what has occurred at school board meetings. We've seen angry parents, exasperated school board members and administrators, frustrated members of the public, and even the regular presence of law enforcement to stop entire meetings from becoming outright brawls," said **Senator Suzanne Weber (R-Tillamook)**, a former educator. "I am disappointed in the Democrats' decision to reject our minority report which gave more time and attention to this issue. Instead, they passed SB 1583 on party lines."

"We have heard from hundreds and hundreds of Oregonians who are deeply concerned about SB 1583. Instead of rushing into passing a contentious bill during a short session meant to address emergencies, Republicans wanted to give the discussion more time and input from parents and the public in future sessions," said **Leader Knopp**. "Democrats framed this bill as an issue of discrimination, but the bigger picture is ensuring Oregon schools provide appropriate reading material to their students to enhance their educational experiences. Our minority report recognized that discrimination is wrong, and so is providing children explicit content harmful to their development."

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