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Protecting Free Speech, Thought in Oregon Schools

Senate Bill 1583 will protect free speech by prohibiting book bans, keeping appropriate, educational material available for all Oregonians

SALEM, Ore. — Today, [Senate Bill 1583](#) passed the Oregon Senate. This legislation will protect free speech by prohibiting politically-motivated book bans, keeping appropriate, educational material available for all Oregonians.

SB 1583 will prohibit book bans on the basis of race, gender identity, country of origin, sexual orientation, disability and immigrant status, protecting all Oregonians' right to free speech, and keeping culture wars out of our public schools and libraries. This legislation protects parents' right to decide what their children read, free from political interference.

“Book banning is a widespread tool used to oppress free speech and thought in Oregon and nationwide,” said **Senator Lew Frederick (D- Portland)**, chief sponsor of this legislation. “All kids deserve the opportunity to see themselves, their families, and members of their community represented in the books they read. Oregonians should get to decide what they personally read, not political agendas.”

The bill now goes to the Oregon House of Representatives for consideration.

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