

Written Testimony for Senate Bill 1583

Date: 2/13/24

Re: Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 1583

Dear Chair Dembrow and Members of the Senate Committee on Education,

I appreciate the opportunity to submit the following testimony for Senate Bill 1583.

I am in support of this bill because:

- 1) It acknowledges the contributions of LGBTQIA+ individuals towards economic, political, and social change in Oregon and the United States and seeks to ensure that those stories are not excluded from the history classroom materials.
- 2) It seeks to ensure that students have a resource in the classroom that shows them the history and important roles the individuals listed in section 1(1) had in Oregon and US history.

I would make the following two suggested changes to the bill for diversity, equity, and inclusion purposes:

- 1) Amend lines 12-14 to state “Textbooks and other instructional materials shall adequately address the roles in and contributions to the economic, political and social development of Oregon and the United States by **individuals and groups who are:**” In its current form this bill excludes not only groups of people but also those individuals who did not identify as either male or female.
- 2) Amend line 20 to state “**Are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersexual, asexual, nonbinary or any other minority gender identity or sexual orientation.**” In its current form this line excludes a great many diverse groups of the LGBTQIA+ community.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely, George Washington