

Submitter: Brianna Sowinski  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Senate Committee On Education  
Measure: SB1583

As a public librarian who is deeply committed to the principles of intellectual freedom, free speech, and the right to read, I wholeheartedly support Measure SB1583.

Books have the power to inform, inspire, challenge, and transform individuals and communities. They serve as windows into diverse perspectives, experiences, and ideas, enriching our understanding of the world and fostering empathy and critical thinking skills. As stewards of information, librarians play a crucial role in ensuring access to a wide range of materials that reflect the diverse interests and viewpoints of our patrons.

The act of banning books not only undermines these fundamental values but also stifles intellectual curiosity and limits access to important literary works. It perpetuates censorship and deprives individuals of the opportunity to engage with ideas that may be uncomfortable or controversial but are nonetheless essential for fostering a well-informed and democratic society.

By supporting this bill, The Senate Committee on Education would affirm their commitment to uphold the principles of intellectual freedom and the right of every individual to access information and explore ideas freely. It is imperative that we protect the freedom to read and reject any attempts to censor or restrict access to materials based on subjective objections or ideological agendas.

I urge you to stand on the side of intellectual freedom and pass this important legislation, ensuring that libraries remain vibrant spaces where diverse voices are celebrated and cherished, and where the right to read is upheld for all.

Thank you for your attention to this crucial matter.

Sincerely,

Brianna Sowinski