

Submitter: Bruce Jenks

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Education

Measure: SB1583

As someone who grew up in a rural community (Saratoga County, upstate New York) I am very familiar with the challenges small communities face searching for information on many subjects, particularly history, politics, sexuality, and race. Local governments and school boards have immense power to reduce access to information for their fellow citizens. We have seen a surge in reducing access to information about gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people and their experiences all over the country. Many school boards nationwide are refusing to acknowledge the painful history of White supremacy in our country and have tried to pass laws prohibiting it from schools and libraries. I support this bill in its aim to prevent governments and educators from censoring history in our textbooks and library materials and using education as a tool of discrimination. Those who claim to protect young people from books deny them their constitutional rights to intellectual freedom.