

I strongly support SB 1583, and urge you to pass this bill. Growing up, my parents encouraged my siblings and me to read widely. We did, and found things we loved, agreed with, and expanded our understanding of society, the world, and the universe. We also read things we found hateful, challenging, disgusting, immoral, and so forth. All of the ideas and attitudes we read about helped us form our own outlooks on the world, strengthened both by our agreement and disagreement with what we read. If we had been “shielded” from some of those things, our outlook would have been weakened, and we would have only been partially prepared to be functional adults. My decision-making capacity was immensely strengthened by this wide exposure to ideas and attitudes, and further, my trust in this capacity is robust. If I had been prevented from this range growing up, I would never have been able to trust my own judgement, if it had been formed by partial understanding.