

Submitter: Allison Lakomski
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Education
Measure: SB1583

Members of the Senate Committee on Education,

I support SB 1583 and implore you to do the same.

It seems that there is a lack of clarity in the meaning and intention of the prohibition of discrimination in the selection of educational texts and materials on the part of some constituents.

Ensuring inclusivity and equity is necessary for fostering a democratic learning environment, and, therefore, contributing to a more just and democratic society. Including traditionally underrepresented and marginalized voices, alternative perspectives, and contemporary rhetoric is not tantamount to promoting depravity, but is essential to presenting a realistic and complete narrative of the diverse society we live in. While school administrators, educators, and parents serve a role in ensuring that materials are grade-level appropriate, allowing for the complete and total refusal of information and published works based on one's own political, religious, or ethical practices is, in fact, counter to the First Amendment of this Nation.

SB 1583 serves to promote empathy, understanding, and comprehensive knowledge in our students—qualities that we should all wish to see instilled in future generations.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Allison Lakomski, PhD
Professor of English, Blue Mountain Community College