

Submitter: Faith Keeton
On Behalf Of:
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Measure: SB1583

I am a student at Sisters Highschool public school. I, along with a few devoted students, have been rebuilding our library. Our school's public library has been shut down for more than a decade and this year we have spent numerous hours working to reopen it. At the beginning of this project I looked into public school libraries around our district, across the states and naitonally. I also spent time putting together a list of books to buy for the library and weeding out books we already had. After all my time and effort I put into our library I have learned numerous things, foremost that knoledge is power, and withholding knowlegde is wrong. It's not your job to tell people what they can and can't know or what they can and can't read. Your job is to ensure that people aren't being denied knowledge because it's "controversial" or "makes people uncomfortable". When we read and discuss uncomfortable things we grow and become better humans. Keeping books out of libraries doesn't protect anyone, it just ensures that people who can't afford to buy books don't have access to books. We should not be afraid of ideas and thus ban books that present those ideas. That's what leads to things like the holocaust. As someone involved in my public school library, I implore you to keep access to books and knowledge available for everyone, not just for those who have enough wealth to invest in books, and thus their education and future.