

Submitter: Sandy Polishuk  
On Behalf Of: SB 1583  
Committee: Senate Committee On Education  
Measure: SB1583

I will be short and sweet as I just heard about this excellent bill hours away from your hearing.

We do not need censorship. Rather, we need children to develop critical thinking skills where they can get help understand what they exposed to. We all need to read widely and diversely to understand our complicated world.

Just as important is the mental health and comfort of children who are 'different' in any way to see themselves in the books they read, at least occasionally. Reading about gay people won't 'make them gay' anymore than reading about Black people will make the Black.

Please listen to Senator Frederick, an experienced educator, and protect the ability of educators and librarians to be the ones who decide what books are available in our schools. Surely it is better for our children to read the books they seek openly and in school where they have access to adults who can help them understand what they read if they are troubled or confused by a book.

Thank you for your dedication and contribution to our state.