

Submitter: Le Button
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Education
Measure: SB1583

Committee members,

I am writing to express support for Senate Bill 1583.

As a former public school employee, I have firsthand understanding of the many obstacles that educators face in equipping students with the skills, knowledge, experiences that they will need in order to become capable and successful adults. Educators need to be able to connect students with materials that represent a broad range of perspectives without fear of intimidation or harassment, but the current wave of book bans and challenges has both imperiled student access to important resources, and put educators in a position of vulnerability when it comes to being targeted with hateful language and even death threats. SB1583 would act as a protection for educators who are simply trying to do the job entrusted to them by the state.

Additionally, the disproportionate targeting of materials by or about individuals from protected classes has an impact on the ability of schools to equitably provide education to all students. The removal of materials that reflect particular experiences or identities sends the message to individuals who share those experiences or identities that they are less welcome than their peers to learn, grow, and express themselves within the school setting. Regardless of where they come from, how they identify, or what they believe, each student deserves to feel welcome, and SB1583 would support this by ensuring that every student has the opportunity to see themselves reflected in materials to which they have access.

I urge you to consider the significant positive impact that SB1583 stands to make, both on the ability of teachers to teach and the ability of student to learn.

Regards,

Le Allen Button