

Submitter: Tom Charles  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Senate Committee On Education  
Measure: SB1583

Dear Senator Fredricks and Senate Committee on Education

I am writing today in support of Senate Bill 1583, which prohibits discrimination when selecting textbooks, instructional materials, program materials or library books that are used in the state public schools.

Banning books because a select group disagrees or dislikes their content is far more dangerous to our students than any information these books may contain. Availability of these books is paramount to the discovery of people, thought and information not readily available to our students own personal exposure and day to day life.

My three children were diverse readers and were able to find people like themselves in books when they couldn't find them in the classroom or on their sports teams. Additionally, and just as important, they learned about people they weren't like. It provided us with opportunities to have interesting conversations and helped them grow and quite honestly inform and teach me.

I urge this committee to support Senate Bill 1583.  
Thank you for your time.

Tom Charles