

Submitter: Rinny Lakin  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Senate Committee On Education  
Measure: SB1583

Hello,

I have spent 34 years in K-12, Public and Special libraries. This bill helps protect intellectual freedom, a right that is a critical component in a functioning society. This bill combats the revived organized efforts to target curriculum and access to books that reflect everyone in our communities. To foster empathy and understanding, we need diverse books. Students should have access to books that help with perspective taking and self reflection, what we call window and mirrors. There should also be a diversity of thought that builds critical thinking skills. Libraries have adapted collection management best practices that have been crafted and updated frequently in our profession in order to protect these values. The renewed abuse of the book challenge process, and curriculum censorship has cost tax payers in the staff time to go through the review process and respond.

I support this bill to strengthen our ability to respond to challenges that are rooted in discrimination against vulnerable and protected groups and maintain our ability to chose what we want to read.

Thank you,  
Rinny