

My name is Lane Jacobson and I am the owner of Paulina Springs Books in Sisters, OR and the current president of the Pacific Northwest Booksellers Association. I would like to voice my unequivocal support for SB 1583. As a straight passing queer person, as a white passing person of color, as the child of a parent that committed suicide, as someone who did not know my biological father until I was 10, my own identity and figuring out where I belong in this world was a struggle. As a young person, I found myself in books. I received forms of support and education from books that were not otherwise accessible to me. They saved my life. Just as importantly, books afforded me the opportunity to learn about other people, places, cultures, histories, and experiences that I would not have had access to - to be challenged by ideas and experiences new to me. Now, as a bookseller, not a day goes by that I do not witness this same thing happening for other children and young adults that come into my store. Even more than bookstores, public institutions like libraries and schools have a responsibility to protect these opportunities. There is a cliché phrase in the book world that books are “windows and mirrors” - we can see and learn about others and ourselves through books. By allowing book bannings of any kind, we are closing those windows and covering those mirrors and keeping our children in the dark.