

Submitter: Jane Stackhouse
On Behalf Of: Readers
Committee: Senate Committee On Education
Measure: SB1583

I fully support Senator Frederick's bill in support of non-discrimination in our reading material. Growing up my family felt it was a complement to describe someone as an indiscriminant reader. We meant someone who read everything: fiction, non-fiction, history, science, gardening, cooking, novels, classics, and various news papers and magazines. Book baning was something facists had done in the war my father fought in. He encouraged us to read.

My 21st Avenue Book Club recently learned that Arthur's Birthday by Marc Brown was banned in Florida. I bought it. Asked my 8 year old to read it and tell me what was bad about it. She found it a bit boring becaused she has moved on the chapter books. If you would like a break from your hectice schedule listen to Arthur's Birthday on the YouTube Story Time channel <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-Pinuf3V6I>. Please let me know if you can identify why it would have been banned in Florida.

SB 1583 is a good bill. I'm sad that we need it but it is past time to stop this foolish book banning. The bill does not force anyone to read any of these books nor does it force libraries to buy them (there are simply too many book in print to require any library have them all). What it does do is support readers who are members of protected classes, People who have been discriminated against to the extent that we passed laws to say that they must be treated fairly, equitably. And it supports readers who are not members of these groups who want to better understand the lives and feelings of the people represented in the literature.

I urge support for SB 1583. I did not understand how much it is needed until I started to read the push back. Freedom is essential to democracy.