

Submitter: Martita Meier  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Senate Committee On Education  
Measure: SB1583

?My name is Martita Meier and I am the Chair of the Washington County Democrats. I am speaking on behalf of the county party in favor of this bill. The Washington County Democrats recently passed their latest platform.

Per the following Articles, I can speak on behalf of the party that we support this bill.

?Article 1: Civil Rights and our Civic Environment

1. We reject and condemn all ideologies that perpetuate discrimination,? inequality, and hate. We oppose racism, misogyny, ableism, ageism,? homophobia, transphobia, xenophobia, antisemitism, Islamophobia, white supremacy, fascism, and other ideologies that undermine equity, social well-being, freedom, and safety.

2. We believe institutional racism can and must be eliminated through anti-racism? work at all levels of society.

?And

Article 3: Education and Human Development

9. We support adequate public funding for public and school libraries, including access to scientific and technical journals and historical and sociological analyses.

10. We oppose the banning of books.

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The Washington County Democrats have a strong view in terms of academic freedom, anti-discrimination, and elevated learning. The banning of books takes away opportunities for holistic and deep learning for all students at all levels of their education. People learn by reading what they don't already know about. By expanding horizons through reading we create a high-functioning and collaborative community. When a society condones banning books (and condones discrimination in the practices of choosing the best books for students to read): we limit what's possible in our society. We limit the opportunities to learn and grow from one another.