

Submitter: Joanna Hailey  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Senate Committee On Education  
Measure: SB1583

I believe that this bill is intended not to protect against discrimination but to make it impossible for parents to have a say in determining what materials are available to our children in our public schools. The issue here is not book banning or opposition to inclusion of diverse perspectives or identities but opposition to truly explicit sexual (and violent) material and to ideologies that we believe undermine core American values such as freedom of thought/speech and tolerance for viewpoint diversity. We have all seen the library books under review, such as 'Flamer' and 'Tricks,' and while these books may have value as memoir and for adults, they are entirely inappropriate for our public school libraries. We also have deep concerns about how far-left ideologies are being used to divide our children from one another and to create a culture of race/identity essentialism that does not uplift minority students but undermines their agency. Parents have every right to have input about what their children encounter in our public schools, and this bill removes from us that right. I oppose this bill in the strongest terms.