

To: House Committee on Rules
RE: In opposition of SB 1583A
Date: March 4, 2024

I oppose SB 1583A and urge you to do the same.

This bill takes away local control from school boards, teachers, and parents, who know what is best for their students when choosing instructional materials for the classroom.

The issue is not discrimination. It is making sure books are **age appropriate**. This bill could disallow the consideration of age appropriateness in the selection or denial of books. If a book about a lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender but is clearly age inappropriate for a classroom, the book could be accepted based solely on the fact that the book is about a lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender. This rule serves no one as it allows the accusation of discrimination to invalidate whether the book is relatable to the students if the language and vocabulary support students' reading abilities and if it is developmentally appropriate and interesting to students.

I urge you to oppose SB 1583A.

Thank you,
Melissa Laird
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