

Submitter: Nicole De Graff  
On Behalf Of: the innocence of children  
Committee: House Committee On Rules  
Measure: SB1583

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee, My name is Nicole De Graff. I am an elected school board director though today I am simply speaking to you as a parent and advocate for common sense. The explicit books in question like Gender Queer and Lawn Boy should never have been placed into our k12 schools to begin with. That you are making this political and pretending it is about discrimination is wrong. We have civil rights coordinators now at every school and we have had strong anti discrimination and civil rights laws in our state. I have read many of the challenged books and the controversy has nothing to do with the inherent nature of protected groups at all but instead has more to do with the graphic and explicit content as well as the lack of local or parental input.

I am concerned as an individual school board member who is mandated by the state to approve curriculum. Why have school boards at all if we won't be allowed to work with our district staff and local community in choosing curriculum? My desire is to remove the division and politics and have an intellectually honest conversation. Instead of eroding transparency and community trust, I requested legislation last year in HB3419. It was sponsored by Rep. Owens and had eleven co sponsors. I contacted legislators many times to seek a public hearing because in my view it removes potential school board meeting vitriol and gives parents more input. The session passed without a response from the House Education Chair.

The bill wouldn't have removed any books but made a more clear cut process for parents of kids who want to read explicit books a way to opt in.

Please realize how short sighted SB1583 is and either vote no or amend this bill to replace it with HB3419.

Vote NO.