

Submitter: Kathleen Martinez  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: House Committee On Rules  
Measure: SB1583

If you have provided your child with a cell phone - I can guarantee you that they have SEEN far worse on that device than they will read in a book found at school.

Can we please trust our educators and librarians in selecting school-age appropriate volumes -- and yes, that means appropriate for lots of kids in lots of grades. Can we please trust our children to make choices, independent of their parents, as to what reading material speaks to them, moves them, and matters to them. School is not a place to create cookie-cutter versions of ourselves. Public school is a public space that gives our children the knowledge and relationships and experiences to expand and grow and learn new and interesting things that they do not find at home. It is the place to talk about world history and our place in it, and read about the good, bad, and ugly of our country and other countries, about the cosmos, and the beauty and imperfections of humanity. And the library is a sacred space where 100s of thousands of kids every day feel safe and valued for their curiosity and wonder.

Books take us to all the worlds we never knew we needed in our life. They are escape, future, past, love, grief, art, imagination, joy, and everything else. All our children have the right to receive ideas and information. A key delivery of this is our schools. I believe and trust our professional educators and librarians to decide the books to be used and available in our schools. They're the education experts. Not me.