

Submitter: R S
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Education
Measure: SB1583

I have worked in public schools and public libraries for the better part of the last two decades, and I know how important it is for youth of all ages to have broad access to reading materials that can reflect their identities and lived experiences. Books are a refuge for children who may not otherwise have one, and all too often book challenges end up hurting children who are already experiencing marginalization on multiple levels. The ability to challenge, ban, and remove books based on bigoted beliefs should not be encouraged or allowed. We must enshrine access to reading materials that upholds the values of inclusion, representation, and equity. We must not shy away from the reading materials that expose the true histories or experiences of many of our family members, friends, neighbors, and community members just because they may threaten someone's privilege or perceived safety based on bigotry. Please pass SB 1583. Thank you.