

Submitter: Amanda Ligon  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Senate Committee On Education  
Measure: SB1583

I cannot believe I have to write a message saying that I SUPPORT a bill that prohibits discrimination when selecting textbooks, instructional materials, program materials or library books that are used in the public schools of this state. Every single child in the state deserves to see themselves and their families reflected respectfully, lovingly and in the fullness of their humanity. Many of the arguments in opposition of this bill cite (with no evidence whatsoever) that reading affirming books has the power to change a child's sexuality, or impose some sort of political agenda on our children. To be very clear - reading books do not change a person's natural sexual identity. Reading books that center experiences that might be different than yours has been scientifically shown to expand empathy, build positive self-esteem and expands healthy relationships. These are wonderful things to be teaching children, and it harms them to hide them from the true diversity of the world. Black, Indigenous, Queer and Trans folks have existed long before books, and will exist in the future as well. No amount of spreading discrimination could ever stop it, and I urge us to stand on the right side of history with this bill.