

I support our public schools.

I support our public school teachers.

I support our democracy.

But mostly, I support our children who are the future of our democracy. Therefore, I support SB1583.

In this age of “alternative facts” and disinformation, students need to be critical thinkers to glean the truth from news inundating them from the myriad of today’s media. Critical thinking is gained from exposure to varied viewpoints and ideas as found in literature and instructional materials by providing windows into other’s worlds. Access as proposed by SB1583, promotes problem-solving skills as well as empathy for others needed to succeed in this diverse and interconnected world.

Banning books would not only degrade the quality of our public education, but it would add to the erosion of our democracy. A healthy democracy flourishes in free exchange of ideas and perspectives sourced from the books and instructional materials to be protected by HB1583. Book bans work to polarize by suppressing opposing viewpoints which leads to the erosion of a functional democracy.

Pass HB1583 to support our public schools, public school teachers and most importantly to support our children and the future of our democracy.

Thank you for your consideration.

Jackie Brown