
Jen Robinson

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February 13, 2024

Dear Legislators,

I support Senate Bill 1583 for all the reasons cited by teacher, librarians, and concerned citizens. Access, representation and combating discrimination against our most vulnerable are all good reasons to codify our trust in educated professionals and their materials choices with this bill.

But I have a more personal story to add. My 10-year-old son is Autistic and struggles to connect with others. One of the main ways he learns about people and the ways they think and feel are through books. We have tried to raise him in diverse communities, but rely on school materials to help him see and understand the bigger world around him.

We need books and materials that can show our children how different, varied, rich, and varied our world is. Kids like mine need hundreds of literal instances of people living and being, and I want the largest, widest possible sample size from which he can learn. I want him to see positive representations of all different types of people, even people I don't agree with. I trust his special education teachers to instruct him to their best ability, so I want them to have access to materials that will enrich and broaden his perspectives, every day.

Thank you,
Jen Robinson