

Submitter: Timothy Comrie
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Rules
Measure: SB1583

I was a queer kid and now I'm a queer adult, and I'm here today because I had access to information.

From early childhood my family perpetuated shame and disgust towards the LGBTQ+ community. From early childhood, I was taught that gay people were an abomination, destined to a life of anguish and disease before being thrown to Satan's fire and brimstone. Before I even had the words to describe myself, I just knew that I was intrinsically different in ways that would provoke ostracization and shame among my family. So, at age 12, I attempted suicide.

When I was 13 I gathered the courage to come out to my mother. "Mom, I like boys", I said. She wouldn't look me in the eye. Her fearful response was "Well, you know what the bible says...". A couple weeks later she suggested so-called conversion therapy.

After that, I knew I would have to forge my own support network and find resources on my own until I was old enough to move out.

So, I entered my teen years and one of the ways I survived was by going to the library. I read books that my parents wouldn't have approved of. Kind librarians ordered things for me without judgement. I learned that there was a whole world out there full of liberation and joy and community for queer and trans people. I learned that I could pick chosen family someday, and so I did.

Queer books save queer kids' lives.