

Chair Frederick, Co-Chair Weber, and members of the committee,

For the record, my name is Miranda Doyle and I'm a freelance licensed school librarian in southern Oregon. For the past 6 years or so, I was the Intellectual Freedom Chair for the Oregon School Library Association, and I'm still active in supporting library staff dealing with censorship attempts.

Book banning and challenges to free speech in recent years has increased to record levels in Oregon and nationwide, with most of the books under fire featuring LGBTQIA2S+, Black people, Indigenous people and other people of color, and other marginalized people. Banning books because they portray people who are subject to hate and discrimination is not acceptable.

It's also important to protect school librarians and library staff who stand up against censorship - it's heartbreaking to see my colleagues attacked on social media, at school board meetings and in their own community for providing inclusive books. It takes such a toll on their mental health even as they work to protect their students and their right to read.

As librarians, we know that no student is required to read a specific book held by the school library, and that parents absolutely have the right to decide what their child reads. But no one should decide for other families that books should be censored and removed from libraries.

I appreciate you for supporting the bill to protect school librarians, who know how to select the books their students need to learn and grow and feel safe.

Thank you for your time. I am happy to answer any questions you may have.