

Submitter: Linda Taylor

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Education

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1098

As a retired certified school media specialist and professional public librarian, I can attest to the importance of collection development by professional selection utilizing the tools of the trade and professional knowledge to select diverse library materials to meet the needs of our diverse patrons. Collections and curriculum are adopted based on rigorous professional standards and must not be cherry-picked by zealots who wish to impose their personal partisan or religious biases. Selection policies exist to protect libraries from unwarranted intrusion by outside forces of any persuasion. For children to develop a healthy sense of self, they must be given access to high quality materials which resonate with their own life experiences as well as being permitted to learn about to a wide range of other experiences unlike their own. Understanding of the wider world they live in is integral to personal success. Censorship undermines the purpose of the libraries and public schools as inclusive democratic institutions. 'We the people' require knowledge of ourselves and one another to thrive in a multicultural pluralistic society, and our right to learn accordingly must be upheld and protected.