

Submitter:

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On Behalf Of:

Committee:

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There have always been a few people who wanted to ban books in schools and libraries on subjects they wanted to protect children from knowing about. I remember when the subject was divorce. However, children whose parents were divorcing needed stories to help them get through that unhappy experience. Now the subject may be LGBTQ+ people or people of color or immigrants or some other group. But children who fit the category or who have family members who fit the category need stories to let them know that they aren't alone, that other people are experiencing or feeling as they do. Stories also help people who don't fit the category learn to understand the experiences and feelings of those who do. We need much more understanding in this world, and stories help to foster that understanding. Currently there are people who don't want children to learn about the bad things that have happened in our country, such as slavery, violence against people of color, discrimination based on race, poverty, religion, etc. But it's important for everyone to know what has happened in the past to help prevent the bad things from happening again. Educators know to choose library materials, textbooks and other instructional materials that are age appropriate for their students.