

My name is Patty Steele. I am a 20-year teaching veteran of middle schoolers, the first 17 of which were as an English teacher, and the last few years as a library media specialist. I love my career — reaching students and connecting with them through books and stories has been simply amazing. I am writing in opposition to SB 2360, the text of which requires reasonable people to make a judgement call about people’s reading material. I do not promote obscenity in my classrooms or library, but I cannot support a bill that is vague and unclear. Who are these “reasonable” people who will read, for example, Captain Underpants by Dav Pilkey, and decide the character is being obscene because he is dressed in his underwear (and a cape). This series has been challenged again and again. This graphic novel is by no means obscene; it is ridiculous, silly and fun, yet some “reasonable” people might feel otherwise. This bill ridicules the professionalism of teachers and librarians in every level of service, as it assumes everyone will have reasonable thoughts about reading material. Part of reading good books involves different interpretations and perceptions, and appeals to wide varieties of readers. How can teachers and librarians know exactly what reasonable people believe? And if we cannot accomplish that, we will be charged with a crime. Please re-consider SB 2360, and vote against its passage.