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January 20, 2023

Chairman Larson and the Members of the Judiciary Committee,

I am writing to voice my opposition to the proposed changes presented in SB 2123.

The American Library Association first adopted a Freedom to Read Statement in June of 1953. This statement reads:

1. It is in the public interest for publishers and librarians to make available the widest diversity of views and expressions, including those that are unorthodox, unpopular, or considered dangerous by the majority.
2. Publishers, librarians, and booksellers do not need to endorse every idea or presentation they make available. It would conflict with the public interest for them to establish their own political, moral, or aesthetic views as a standard for determining what should be published or circulated.
3. It is contrary to the public interest for publishers or librarians to bar access to writing on the basis of the personal history or political affiliations of the author.
4. There is no place in our society for efforts to coerce the taste of others, to confine adults to the reading matter deemed suitable for adolescents, or to inhibit the efforts of writers to achieve artistic expression.
5. It is not in the public interest to force a reader to accept the prejudgment of a label characterizing any expression or its author as subversive or dangerous.
6. It is the responsibility of publishers and librarians as guardians of the people's freedom to read, to contest encroachments upon that freedom by individuals or groups seeking to impose their own standards or tastes upon the community at large; and by the government whenever it seeks to reduce or deny public access to public information.
7. It is the responsibility of publishers and librarians to give full meaning to the freedom to read by providing books that enrich the quality and diversity of thought and expression. By exercise of this affirmative responsibility, they can demonstrate that the answer to a "bad" book is a good one, the answer to a "bad" idea is a good one.

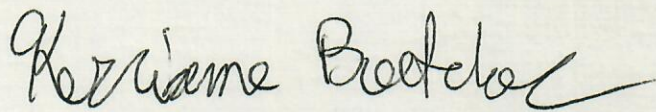
I firmly believe in this statement and that my beliefs and viewpoints should not dictate what another person may or may not want to read. The decision of whether or not a minor should have access to reading a particular subject is one that is best left up to their parents and/or

guardians and is not one that should be left to an outside entity with no knowledge of the minor and their development.

The proposed changes are a violation of the rights of individuals to select for themselves what they would like to read whether that is in a public bookstore or a public library. I am gravely concerned with the legality of this bill and the level of control that it is taking away from the individual and their right to choose what they and their family read.

I urge you to consider voting against the proposed changes and I thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kerriane Boetcher". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

Kerriane Boetcher
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