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This testimony is my personal opinion.  
OPPOSED to SB2123

There are so many factors about this bill to which I am opposed. Most of all what has me stymied about many of the legislative actions taken by this Republican-controlled session is the political stance touted by the party as being laissez-faire with limited government. And yet, here we are – having a hands-off government trying desperately to limit access to information mainly because one book discusses sexuality in a way that makes some uncomfortable.

We are raising up generations unable to critically think their way out of a wet paper bag. These young people are hindered by lack of access to information – unless that information falls within parameters in agreement with their parents' opinions. Natural exploration and curiosity should be encouraged and not stifled because the supposed adult does not want a topic discussed. Let's not continue to dumb down the populace. One of the major tenets promoted by Thomas Jefferson himself, "An educated citizenry is a vital requisite for our survival as a free people" is more critical now than ever.

Most librarians doing collection development have master's degrees in library and/or information science. We have undergone rigorous education

to inform our decisions based on gold-standard, best practices laid out and followed by the profession. We are even more cognizant that we do not only collect items in line with our own personal beliefs, but instead create a complete collection representing all sides. For instance, libraries also carry sex education materials on abstinence.

If parents do not want their child exposed to certain types of materials, there is an easy answer. The parent can accompany THEIR child anywhere a public walkway could potentially expose the child to obscene materials. Or they can skip going anywhere at all. In no way, should the prudishness of some parents limit the rest of the populations' access to books that make some uncomfortable.

I doubt when the writer of this bill was putting pen to paper, he considered the Bible, will fall within the parameters and be challenged for passages such as Genesis 19:4-5 "Before they had gone to bed, all the men from every part of the city of Sodom—both young and old—surrounded the house. They called to Lot, "Where are the men who came to you tonight? Bring them out to us so that we can have sex with them." Promoting homosexuality right there.

In addition, every romance novel, Sports Illustrated Swimsuit edition, National Geographic magazine, popular fiction novel by authors such as

John Grisham, James Patterson and the like will fall under challenge parameters. In fact, since “gender identity” includes speaking about males or females, you could argue, every book in the library, with maybe the exception of a few farm animal stories, will need to be culled.

Is that really the democracy we live under? Is that really the world you want to live in?

I urge you adamantly to mark SB2123 DO NOT PASS.