

April 8, 2025

Assemblymember Brittney M. Miller
Nevada State Assembly
401 South Carson Street
Carson City, Nevada 89701

Dear Assemblymember Miller and Members of the Judiciary Committee:

I am writing in strong support of AB 416. I am deeply concerned for the families, librarians, and communities affected when the freedom to read and access information is restricted or challenged. While a particular book may not resonate with every reader, we all know from personal experience that a single book can have a profoundly positive impact on someone.

The rising efforts to ban books across the nation disproportionately target stories about BIPOC and LGBTQ+ communities. These actions not only attempt to erase vital history but also silence voices that speak truthfully about essential human experiences. In some cases, these efforts aim to rewrite the history of civil rights in America.

When books are removed or deemed inappropriate, it sends the harmful message that the people represented within those pages are somehow inappropriate themselves. This is a form of dehumanization and erasure. Every reader deserves to see themselves and their families positively reflected in the books available at libraries and institutions of higher learning. Research shows that diverse books foster empathy, reduce prejudice, and help create a more compassionate society. In a time when hate crimes are on the rise across the U.S., we need these books more than ever. Additionally, as young people today face increasing mental health challenges, these books can serve as lifelines, offering encouragement for readers to seek support from their families and communities.

For centuries, libraries have served as a place of equal access to a wide range of knowledge and ideas for everyone. When pro-censorship groups attempt to manipulate or overwhelm these systems to push their political agendas or personal beliefs, they create an environment of fear and oppression, undermining our fundamental freedoms—freedom of thought, expression, and ideas. The freedom to read is critical for ensuring that our communities flourish.

Books hold immense power to cultivate empathy, break down prejudice, and enrich lives—but they can only do so if they remain available to all.

We urge you to support Nevada AB 416 and continue working to protect our First Amendment rights.

Sincerely,



Shane Piccinini


Reno, Nevada 89502