

Chair Miller and members of the committee,

My name is Shelbie Swartz, and I am the Executive Director of Battle Born Progress. I am proud to speak today in strong support of AB416, a vital safeguard for intellectual freedom, public access, and, most importantly, the representation of marginalized communities in our public libraries.

Across the country, we are seeing targeted efforts to remove books that feature LGBTQ+ characters, authors of color, and stories that reflect the lived experiences of historically underrepresented groups. These censorship campaigns are not about protecting children—they're about erasing identities. AB416 ensures that won't happen in Nevada.

This bill upholds the idea that everyone deserves to see themselves in the pages of a book. For young people—especially those from marginalized communities—libraries can be the first place they encounter a story that tells them: *you belong*. That you are not alone. That your voice matters.

AB416 creates a clear, fair process for material challenges—one rooted in community standards, not political pressure. It empowers library boards to act in the public interest and protects against reactionary bans that disproportionately harm marginalized voices.

Let's be clear: censorship has never protected anyone. It has only silenced, excluded, and erased. By passing AB416, you are taking a stand for inclusion, dignity, and equal access to knowledge.

In a time when censorship is spreading fast and loud, AB416 is exactly the kind of bold, thoughtful policy we need. I urge you to support it, and again, my deepest gratitude to Assemblymember Miller for standing up for freedom, diversity, and dignity in our public institutions.

Thank you.