

## Steven Sepe

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**From:** Jennifer Lima <jlima2647@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 29, 2024 3:27 AM  
**To:** House State Government and Elections Committee  
**Subject:** H7386

Jennifer Lima  
H7386  
Support

I am writing today in support of H7386 which encourages and protects the freedom of public libraries to acquire materials without limitations and prohibits materials from being removed from public libraries due to partisan or doctrinal disapproval.

Between January 1 and August 31, 2023, the ALA's Office for Intellectual Freedom reported 695 attempts to censor library materials and services and documented challenges to 1,915 unique titles.\* The number of unique titles challenged increased by 20 percent from the same reporting period in 2022 the year in which the highest number of book challenges occurred since ALA began compiling this data more than 20 years ago. The vast majority of censorship attempts are aimed at books that feature BIPOC and/or LGBTQIA+ characters or stories.

Libraries carry out the essential purpose of making available to all citizens a current, balanced collection of books that reflects the cultural diversity and pluralistic nature of American society. They already have a clear, standardized process whereby members of the public can document their concerns and request reconsideration of materials. Librarians have collection development policies, approved by their governing bodies, that detail the types of materials they select and why.

The freedom to read is essential to our democracy. To quote the ALA president, "The antidote to the contagion of censorship is public, vocal support for libraries," I urge you to show your support by passing this bill.

Thank you.

Jennifer Lima  
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Jennifer Lima (she/her/hers)  
[Why Pronouns Matter](#)  
[Talking About Pronouns in the Workplace - HRC Foundation \(thehrcfoundation.org\)](#)

"Diversity is a fact. Equity is a choice. Inclusion is an action. Belonging is an outcome." - Arthur Chan

***My working hours may not be your working hours. Please do not feel obligated to reply outside of your normal work schedule.***