

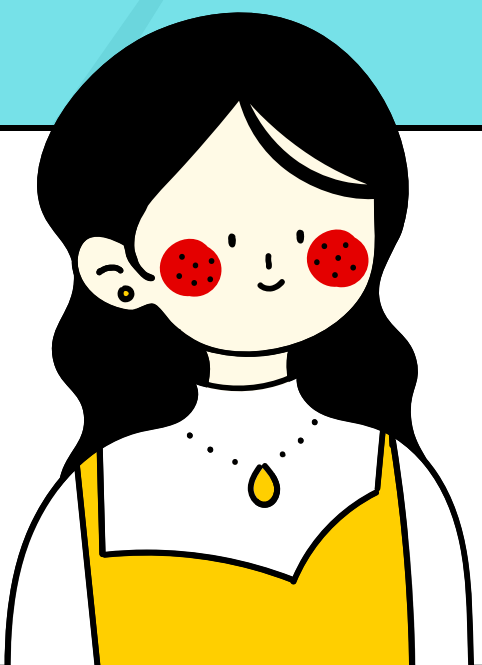
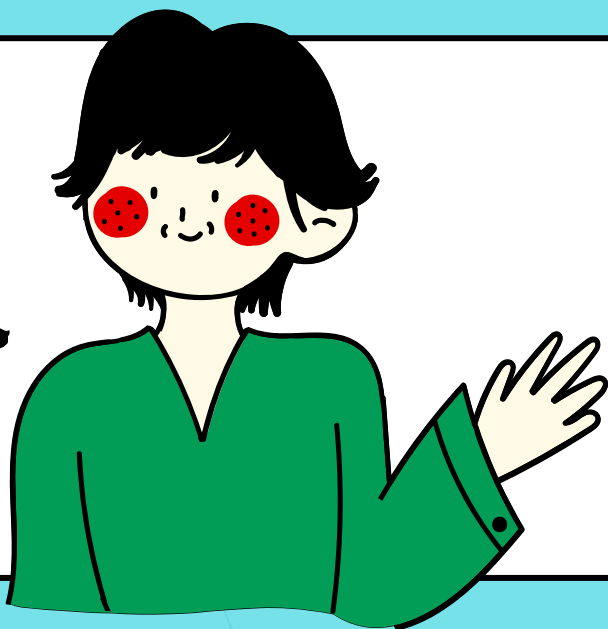
# LIBRARIANS SAVE LIVES

BY LEAH BRENNAN



About a year ago, a group of people demanded that our local library remove a book that included trans characters from the shelves and hide it behind the circulation desk. I joined a group of neighbors to advocate for our library staff and the board to keep that book on the shelves where it had been placed.

We succeed in defending our library against censorship and book banning. I was so proud of our community for standing up to the challenge. Once the dust settled, I thought I would feel better. But there was something else bugging me about this situation.



Someone I love dearly had recently started to transition after many, many years of hiding, feeling alone and struggling.

Sometimes even wondering if they should keep going if they couldn't live their true, authentic self.

I started to wonder: What if my loved one had seen a book that included trans characters at the library when they were younger? Like the one that the book banners wanted to be hidden away? Would their journey have felt safer sooner? Librarians have the power to save lives. Just by doing their jobs.

