

Good Morning Committee Members,

I am writing to urge your UNFAVORABLE vote on HB738, the so-called Freedom to Read Act.

This bill strips away local control and prohibits any county school superintendent in Maryland from disciplining their own employees for violating board policies.

Furthermore, this bill allows school media specialists to determine what books are appropriate for children INSTEAD of their parents. Recently, over 50 books have been removed from public school libraries which include detailed and graphic depictions of sexual acts, abuse, and rape. Children have had access to these books in their school library, which indicates a school media specialist has (at some point in time) deemed this appropriate for children. This is extremely disturbing and highly inappropriate material for a child to be exposed to, ESPECIALLY without the consent of their parents.

I urge you to vote this bill down, and allow local boards of education to maintain local control to develop policies that reflect the needs of their constituents. These are elected officials, and they must retain the ability to serve their local communities.

Thank you for reading this email.

Sincerely,

Meghan Barvir

Parent of two BEAUTIFUL and INNOCENT children