

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMPILATION OF PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Submitted to the Committee on Public Education
For HB 900

Compiled on: Wednesday, March 22, 2023 12:06 AM

Note: Comments received by the committee reflect only the view of the individual(s) submitting the comment, who retain sole responsibility for the content of the comment. Neither the committee nor the Texas House of Representatives takes a position on the views expressed in any comment. The committee compiles the comments received for informational purposes only and does not exercise any editorial control over comments.

Hearing Date: March 21, 2023 8:00 AM

Alexander Harris

none

Spring, TX

There are books like Ramona Blue in our ISD libraries that are harmful to minors. The key character Ramona in Ramona Blue is trying to figure out her sexual orientation, and her life as a minor is consumed in this pursuit by sleeping with boys and girls. Such books stir up prurient interest in sex violating TEC 28.004 which promotes the standard of abstinence from sexual activity before marriage.

The ISDs must institute a simpler process to identify and remove such books which violate Texas Penal Code Sec. 43.24. SALE, DISTRIBUTION, OR DISPLAY OF HARMFUL MATERIAL TO MINOR.

Danelle Schwertner

Self - I am an elected school board member of Miles ISD

Miles, TX

I am an elected board member at Miles ISD, and I am voicing my objection to HB 900. This bill seeks to restrict access to books in school libraries by prohibiting acquisition, limiting access, and defining "obscenity" in an overly broad manner. It will also put the burden of determining what books constitute as "sexually explicit" and "sexually relevant" on the shoulders of publishers, allowing for the possibility of books being deemed "obscene" without due consideration of their educational value. How do you determine obscenity? Is it specific phrases or words? Is there a formula? This is too broadly phased. Banning books is not the answer to whatever problem you are trying to fix. This is not something the state should be regulating; you cannot legislate everything on earth. Your focus as legislators should be on actual issues that are occurring in our schools.

Julie Anschutz, Mrs.

self - homemaker

Allen, TX

I strongly support HB 900 because it prohibits harmful, sexually explicit materials in public schools.

Shelley Rayburn

Myself housewife Grandmother Mother

Fort Worth, TX

I strongly support HB 900 because it prohibits harmful sexually explicit materials in public schools.

Stacy Penney, Precinct Chair
Self, Realtor
MANSFIELD, TX

I strongly support HB 900 because it prohibits harmful, sexually explicit materials in public schools.

Robin Kedroske
Self (Nanny)
HOUSTON, TX

Pass HB 900
Get the Smut & Pornographic Books OUT of our schools & libraries!! PROTECT OUR CHILDREN!!

Anna Bartosh
San Angelo TEA Party
San Angelo, TX

We strongly support HB 900

Lynda Haltom
Concerned citizen
Colleyville, TX

I strongly support this bill as it seeks to keep pornographic materials out of public school libraries.

darrell forster
Dairy Queen of Tyler, Inc.
Tyler, TX

i support HB 900.

Karen Grounds
Self
Tyler, TX

I support this bill
Please do not let our children down.

Cynthia Alderman
Self
Fort Worth, TX

I strongly support HB 900 because it prohibits harmful, sexually explicit materials in public schools, something we sorely need today!

Chris Hopper
Texas Family Project
Weatherford, TX

Thank you for allowing my statement. My name is Chris Hopper and I am the president of Texas Family Project. Thanks to grassroots activists all across the state, I have within my possession a list of over 1000 sexually atrocious books that are available within the corridors of Texas Public School Libraries. Concerned parents, pastors, business owners, doctors, and average Joes like myself are fed up with the garbage allowed to flood public library shelves. On said shelves, we are finding filth such as, "Let's Talk About It," "Gender Queer," and hundreds more. Every last one of these books should be removed from the shelves that are accessible by young innocent readers all across the state. The above mentioned books on this list contain some of the most sexual and deviant content you've ever seen or read. These evil books contain advice and drawings for: how to jack off different kinds of penis, how to properly insert a butt plug, and how to search for and research your favorite porn star and or sites that they frequently are featured on. By the way, these specific issues and topics are graphically illustrated in the book "Let's Talk About It." "Let's Talk About It" is a RANDOM HOUSE CHILDREN'S BOOK... How gross and unacceptable. I'm so thankful that Rep. Jared Patterson had the intestinal fortitude to present HB 900 as a viable method to fight this chaos. To the other members of the house... your families, friends, constituents, and most importantly your maker is watching. May you have the boldness and courage to protect the kids in Texas from this pornographic content that absolutely unlocks premature thoughts and tarnishes innocence. Texas is Watching. For Families, Chris

Cathy May Lemmon, Dr.
self
Quinlan, TX

Please know I strongly support this bill, HB 900. Too much has been allowed without obstruction or oversight into the Texas public schools and their libraries. Because we are at a time when children are being sexualized extensively, it is time that Texas says, "NO!" to having sexually explicit materials in the libraries, especially at the public schools. These materials have no place, as far as education and preparing our children for their future as productive citizens of this state and this country. Having materials such as these is completely unnecessary in the public schools, where reading, writing, arithmetic, science, and what will be beneficial have been becoming quite forgotten. It is time we make schools a safe and secure place for learning. Sexually explicit materials have no place in the public schools. Thank you very much.

Dr. Dwayne Collins
Edom TEA Party
Ben Wheeler, TX

Our schools need to stop teaching sexuality. Teaching sex from strictly a biological aspect for older kids who are reaching puberty is fine. Otherwise stay away from what is no more than porn.

Susan Minnich, Mrs.
Self
Hudson Oaks, TX

I strongly support HB 900 because I scare about our children and their hearts and minds. HB 900 Prohibits harmful, sexually explicit material in the public schools. I have read excerpts from some of these books, and felt default by reading them as an adult. As a grandparent of kids in public schools, this is essential, if we care in the least about our children! Please support this bill.

James Ransdell
self
Seguin, TX

Public Education Committee bill HB 900 is a start to stop sexually explicit materials in public schools. This bill needs to pass. We need the vendors to label sexually explicit materials and issue a recall of sexually explicit books sold to Texas schools by September 2023. This bill should be a top priority to pass.

Cherilyn Crum

Self

Tyler, TX

I strongly support bill HB900 for the protection of our children at school and local libraries, by condemning the practice of the presence of sexually explicit books and materials being allowed. May we learn a lesson quickly from France who as a nation regrets allowing their children free access to sexually explicit materials. It has caused untold problems. Please please stand with us against this evil for our children, grandchildren, and future generations.

Donald Crum, Dr

Self

Tyler, TX

I strongly support HB900 for the safety of our children, in protecting them from sexually explicit materials.

Carolyn Lux

Self, Retired RN, BSN

Fredericksburg, TX

I am in favor of this bill because it will remove sexually explicit material from our school libraries. Locally, I have worked with parents groups that have been trying in vain to remove these books and materials from our libraries and have been derided publicly in the newspaper as “book burners,” fascists, authoritarians and accused of attacking free speech. The book committee was formed without using the excepted standards of member selection and is biased in favor of keeping all books on the shelves. It refuses to consider the conservative values of our community. This legislation will help decrease the sexualization of our most precious members of our communities, our children. Please move forward on this legislation. Thank you.

Jack jorgenson

self

Tyler, TX

Please consider passing HB 900 so that our children are not exposed to all this sexually explicit reading material while perusing the school library for school projects. It has to stop! Please stand behind this house bill and make it impossible for these books to find there way into our public schools. Thank you

Ken Fred

Self, retired

Smithville, TX

I strongly urge your support for HB 900. Texas needs to protect our children from the current sexual assault upon them being perpetrated under the guise of school libraries.

The leftest outcry of “censorship” is totally insincere. ALL libraries, except perhaps the Library of Congress, choose certain books to include an certain books to exclude because they don’t have adequate space to include everything ever published. We have always had the good sense to protect our minor children from sexually explicit material and certainly this is no time to cast aside the wisdom of history.

I request that you do all within your power to see that this bill becomes Texas law and allows parents, teachers and librarians to protect our kids from sexual exploitation.

Thank you,

Ken Fred

Connie Vignes

Self

Orange, TX

I strongly support HB 900 because it prohibits harmful, sexually explicit materials in public schools. Please remove and prohibit the purchasing of any sexual explicit materials to be put into any schools.

Richie Grant, liscensed Professional Counselor
self community counseling
Texarkana, TX

I strongly support HB 900 because it prohibits harmful, sexually explicit materials in public school.

I have worked to get these books from Texarkana and area removed. We tried to talk with school leaders but have been stopped on several levels. All asking for 'time to get it done' but the books are STILL THERE.

These books are gross and utterly filthy. They are porn and often violent. Take a read. This is NOT how to encourage good character and positive values.

Heather Fitzgerald
Self
Azle, TX

Let's not expose children to sexual content at SCHOOL. School libraries are not the place for vulgar books that sexualize children. It's hard to believe we actually need a bill to make this point.

Patricia jorgenson
self
Tyler, TX

I strongly support HB 900 because I don't want or need to see harmful, sexually explicit materials in our public schools.” We have to STOP this indoctrination of our children into a sexually explicit society. Please pass HB 900. Thank you.

Tim Kane
self, retired
Tyler, TX

I am supporting HB 900 by Rep Jared Partterson because sexually explicit materials have no place in a school for children. These materials are currently in some school libraries only as a tool to advance the agenda of those who would weaken our moral fiber as a people.

dianna biskan
self
Plano, TX

“I strongly support HB 900 because it prohibits harmful, sexually explicit materials in public schools.” We need lasws to protect our kids because the school boards arent concerned and do nothing.

Caroll DuBose
Birchman baptist church
Alefo, TX

I am strongly in favor of this bill to protect children

Eugene Lux, Mr
Self
Fredericksburg, TX

Please help keep the inappropriate material from getting into the schools

Lori Brunke
Self-Referral Coordinator
Weatherford, TX

Please ban harmful, sexually explicit materials from public schools.

Jeanette Canright
Retired/ myself
Plano, TX

I strongly support this bill to assure that books in school libraries do not contain sexually explicit content. Our children need to be allowed to be kids and not be exposed to vulgar and perverse books.

Cheri H Dorbritz
None
Marshall, TX

I strongly support HB 900 because it prohibits harmful, sexually explicit materials in public schools.”

Donna Collins
SELF, grandmother, tax payer
Fort Worth, TX

I strongly support HB 900 because it prohibits harmful, sexually explicit materials in public schools. These are obscene & causing early sexualization of kids;

Ava Blais
Self - retired social worker
Hudson Oaks, TX

I strongly support the passage of HB900 to protect our school children from explicit and/or inappropriate material. Vote YES for HB900

WS Caldwell, Mrs.
Self retired
Hudson Oaks, TX

I strongly support this bill because it prohibits sexually explicit materials in our schools and libraries.

Rodney Casey
Shackelford, County Republicans
Albany, TX

We need to develop in our youth pure, clean hearts, not hearts there are filled with the trash! Garbage in garbage out. Purity in, purity out!
Please vote for HB 900

Mary Huls
Self, retired
De Kalb, TX

I strongly support HB 900 because it prohibits harmful, sexually explicit materials in public schools. Material this graphic should not be available to our children.

Cindy Simpson
Self, retired
Pearland, TX

I strongly support HB 900 because it prohibits harmful, sexually explicit materials in public schools.

Janie Brittain
Self
Garland, TX

I strongly support HB 900. We must stop sexualizing our children!

Donna Goodwin, Mrs.
MyPreciousChildren
Tyler, TX

Please continue to use the good sense God gave you and recognize that children have NO need whatsoever to be indoctrinated into any sexual titillation by books and or materials made available in public schools. REMOVE in their entirety books containing sexual content, homosexuality, abortion recommendations, pornography, and mandate that any such purchases of this type of graphic context is punishable by removal of the staff who authorized said purchases!! PROTECTION of the children is your first interest!! They are NOT yours to indoctrinate!!! Public school needs to return to its singular purpose. Educate our children without your liberal agenda to destroy lives with the total annihilation of parental discretion over their own offspring!!!

Don & Jennifer Mobbs
Self
Tyler, TX

We Strongly support HB 900, this bill protects our children in the public school system by prohibiting sexually explicit materials. Unfortunately, the School Boards are not taking action to protect our children from these harmful and explicit books, often disguised as novels, etc. Let our children be children. Please support HB 900. Thank You.

Steve Horwitz, Dr.
Self
Rowlett, TX

I strongly support HB 900 because it prohibits harmful, sexually explicit materials in public schools.

Johanna DeJong
Self
Kilgore, TX

"I strongly support HB 900 because it prohibits harmful, sexually explicit materials in public schools."

Lori Hardy, Mrs.
Self, small business owner
Crosby, TX

I support this bill. Stick to the 3Rs and stop specializing our children.

Janice Fowler
self. retired
Dallas, TX

I support HB 900 because it prohibits harmful, sexually explicit materials in public schools. Our young kiddos need to be allowed to grow up .

Rena and David W French

self

Bullard, TX

My husband David and I wholeheartedly support HB900 because it prohibits harmful sexually explicit materials in schools. It is heartbreaking we even need this. But we do.

Kim Horton

Self and previous teacher

Weatherford, TX

I strongly support HB 900 because it prohibits harmful, sexually explicit materials in public schools. I am outrageous and shocked because I have seen these books and they are everywhere in school libraries and city libraries. Tax dollars should not be funding this!! These vendors need to be held accountable for distributing them to schools because these explicit books should be regulated for adults only!! And even then it is disgusting!! It is outrageous that school libraries allow them in but I wonder if vendors are giving out boxes of books free, just to get them into the libraries. Vendors who engage in this kind of sexualization of children should lose their license or be barred from supplying books to any school or city libraries! If they are shipping books for free then any librarian should lose their job when they place them on shelves. It is a shame that now books must be checked before going onto the shelves. But I'm so thankful for Bonnie Wallace who has alerted people in Texas about this awful and damaging agenda of sexualizing children. Children and teens (4yrs to 18 yrs) should be able to be children/young people and learn good wholesome ideas and godly principles in good books! How are we to get a better society and a good culture unless we reign in this kind of agenda?? There should never be books to provide pictures and descriptions about having sex with whoever, whatever and however and tell you to go to your favorite porn site on the internet!! Let's Talk About It is one such book. Go to Booklooks.org and look it up! Go to book reports on this site to read and see pictures in this book. There are also book lists out there if people really want to know what these vendors are peddling. Get rid of them or give concerned regular parents a chance to do it because we are losing this generation!! Thank you!

Patricia Ewing, HB 900

Self

Carthage, TX

I strongly support HB 900 because it prohibits harmful sexually explicit materials in public schools. I am a retired early childhood teacher and I am VERY concerned for our Texas children's future!

Julie Kellogg

self

Aransas Pass, TX

I strongly support HB 900 because it prohibits harmful, sexually explicit materials in public schools."

Audrey Warner

self / retired

Conroe, TX, TX

I ask you to please vote to approve this legislation. It is clear that something needs to be done to prevent vulgar materials out of school libraries and out of the hands of our children. There is no place in public education, with taxpayer dollars, to diminish the innocence of our children. It is a hard fight for parents and concerned citizens when districts all over the state send their teachers and librarians to conferences such as Southwest Education and the TLA Annual Conference that actually provide information and instructions on how to keep these materials in the libraries and how to "embed" these practices so they can be justified as necessary. If these materials are so innocent and "literary appropriate", why must they be hidden? I look to you as the representative of the people, sent to Austin to fight for this priority - PROTECT OUR KIDS.

Christina Drewry

self

Flint, TX

I strongly support HB 900 because it prohibits harmful, sexually explicit materials in public schools. No Texas school should ever have sexually explicit material available to minors. Removing the books from school libraries is an arduous task across the state of Texas. In some instances, we have been working for over a year and it should never have been an issue in the first place. Sexually explicit material should only be accessible to legal adults. Please pass HB 900 and protect Texas kids!

Deborah Williamson

None - I'm a grandparent of school-age children.

Conroe, TX

I strongly support HB 900 because it prohibits harmful, sexually explicit materials in public schools.

John White

self

Rockwall, TX

I whole heartedly am IN FAVOR of this bill. School libraries feature some books that, if not for the schools' immunity from prosecution, would be unlawful to share with minors.

Some of the profane, obscene materials in the Rockwall ISD High School include:

Being transgender in America

A quick & easy guide to queer & trans identities

Gods of the upper air: how a circle of renegade anthropologists reinvented race, sex, and gender in the twentieth century

Gay Men and Lesbians

Music from another world (Lesbian)

Gay power! : the Stonewall Riots and the gay rights movement, 1969

Two boys kissing

A queer history of the United States for young people

Innumerable fictional books as well as doctrinal literature serves to normalize homosexuality and transgenderism are in this one Rockwall ISD school library.

Donna Barnett

Self, retired Texas teacher

Palestine, TX

Please help us protect our children. It is past time to stop the sexualizing of children. It is a parents right to decide when their child needs to be taught about sexual issues of any kind.

Allen Brown, MAJ, USAR (Ret.)

Self: Retired Army officer

Tyler, TX

I strongly support HB 900, because it helps protect our youth from the exploitation and moral corruption from harmful, sexually explicit materials in public schools.

Bonnie Walters

Self/Private Caregiver

Longview, TX

I strongly support HB900 because it prohibits harmful, sexually explicit materials in public schools.

Karen Starnes

Self/Teacher/Nurse/Domestic Engineer

Fort Worth, TX

I strongly support HB 900 because it prohibits harmful, sexually explicit materials in public schools. I live in KISD (Keller ISD), and we have had such a hard time getting these pornographic, and traumatizing books out of our schools. We thankfully were able to vote in a better school board recently, but it has still been a struggle. Kids are being harmed in unimaginable ways. In one case a class was assigned one of these books to read in class and were told not to take it home. One child did and that's how the parents in our district first became alerted to this issue. That child was reprimanded by the teacher and principal for taking it home. The majority of the school board at the time was more concerned about covering for the district and the abhorrent behavior of some teachers than they were about protecting the children. Please eliminate the loophole that immoral people are using to sneak in otherwise illegal and sexually explicit and inappropriate reading material into schools. It's absolutely grooming and pedophilic behavior to expose young teens and children to these books and graphic novels.

Andre Alexander Kulisz, Dr, PhD

Self, Doctor, PhD Researcher

Granbury, TX

The sexualization of children is harmful in many ways. Among them are intellectual development and morality. No society can exist without an intelligent and moral population. Therefore I strongly support HB 900 as it prohibits harmful, sexually explicit materials in public schools.

Kim Selensky, Mrs.

Self

Paradise, TX

Please support this bill and keep inappropriate literature out of our school libraries.

Gay Herrin, Teacher

Project Destiny Texas

Lubbock, TX

This is a wonderful bill. Please pass it.

Richard/Angela Kelley, Dr

Self Retired Scientist

Palestine, TX

We strongly support HB 900 because it outlaws sexually explicit materials in public schools. Thank you for your attention to our point of view.

Deborah Anderson

McLennan County Republican Woman

Waco, TX

I am in a committee that is working to rid Waco and Midway ISD schools of Sexually explicit school library books. Out of an audit of 80 books, we found 45 books in Midway High School library. We asked them if we could address this issue at the October school board meeting. Initially, they said yes, we would be placed on the agenda. Then a week before the school board meeting, they changed their mind and decided we needed to meet with the Midway curriculum director. In the mean time, we were told the High School principal and a teacher aide would go through our book list to assess if these books needed to be removed. At the November School board meeting, School Board member Luna addressed the issue. He said the criteria to remove books from the library is very subjective and out of the 45 books, 9 books were removed! All of the books on our list were highly sexually graphic books! He later wrote us a letter and said, He was very disappointed in the decision to only remove 9 books, but there was nothing he could do.

I then called Waco ISD superintendent and told her I wanted to meet with the School board to discuss the sexually explicit books in their library. The only way to meet with the school board is if two school board members agree to address an issue or an "at-large" member agrees to hear the issue. I emailed each school board member a list of 80 sexually explicit books in their school library and asked for the issue to be placed as an agenda item at their next school board meeting. Only one member responded to my email. Luckily it was an at-large school board member. I was told the board would look into the matter, but so far I can not come in and talk to the school board about the sexually explicit books in their libraries.

It is impossible to remove sexually explicit books from our school libraries without a law forcing the schools to remove them. The Penal code with the 2016 amendment removed will not be strong enough to remove these books. The law needs to be specific about the criteria of removing sexual books, plus the Miller law needs to be more specific.

I tried to audit a few other school libraries in Texas and I could not without knowing the school password . The law needs to make all school libraries transparent to the public. Then hold vendors responsible for selling inappropriate books to schools. Librarians should also be held accountable for the books in the school library.

The committees to review these books needs to be parents, not sex educators or librarians.

Debi Scaggs, Mrs.

self

Denton, TX

Please, hold schools and venders of books accountable. Over the past year I have petitioned my school board to remove sexually explicit books from our ISD. I have followed the laborious process of filling out forms and filing grievances on 90 books only to have most of the books returned to the library shelves. The way the law is presently written, only if the book's "dominate theme is pervasively vulgar " can it be removed. However, many of these very offensive books contain only two or three extremely explicit, descriptive, practically instructional scenes in the story. Therefore, the review committees deem the book not "pervasively vulgar". It is unclear to me as to how many pornographic scenes a book has to contain to make it "pervasively vulgar" enough to be inappropriate for a kid. Here is a sample from a book that was reviewed and returned to Denton ISD library shelves.

THE HATERS: "She guided me onto my back and pulled on the bottom of my briefs and I pushed them over my knees and feet and I was completely naked and not hard at all. She straddled me and pulled her top off and her breasts flopped out and I heard them more than saw them. She reached behind herself and kind of carefully took my not hard dick into one and pretty soon I couldn't really think about anything else and pretty soon after that I was hard and she took her hand away and I heard her opening some little crinkly package and I felt her put the cool plastic middle of the condom snugly on the front of my dick like she was shrink wrapping it and I felt her fingernails through the plastic like the legs of a crab fingernailing their way down my dick and she rose up a little and adjusted her panties and breathed harder ...The moment she put me inside her I came. I mean the exact moment. FUCK, I said, and I curled up around her like a snail, and kept coming about a hundred times, and I said fuckfuckfuckfuck..."

In addition, this book and books like it contain an extensive list of vulgar language. This one includes 67 F-words.

From the book, ALL BOYS AREN'T BLUE: "I remember the condom was blue and flavored like cotton candy. I put some lube on and got him up on his knees, and I began to slide into him from behind...I eased in, slowly, until I heard him moan."

Other books describe violent rapes of women and children, and oral sex performed on girls/women and on boys/men.

Keep in mind, if a book is in the school library it has the possibility of being used in the classroom. Book-review-committee-members have argued a keep the book because they like using it in the classroom particularly for teaching English literature.

There seems to be a strong resistance by many librarians and some teachers to remove these books. They seem to value the book over the child. Venders are looking at their bottom line, they don't care about kids. Please, past this bill and hold them all accountable. Pornography, of any amount, has no place in our public schools.

Linda Bellomy, Ms
self
Ovilla, TX

I strongly support HB 900 because it prohibits harmful, sexually explicit materials in public schools. The children of today are the future of Texas. These materials are a form of child abuse and will not produce citizens who will build a good society as adults.

Gene Robinson, Mr.
Decent citizens
Dallas, TX

Pass this bill and get these damn pervert ISD demorats the hell out of our public schools that we pay for! What a disgrace they all are!!!

Cindy Nick
Self
Tyler, TX

Please support HB 900- I am a retired educator and grandmother to five. I am disgusted at the filth that I have personally witnessed in school libraries that is easily accessible to our children. It is not the responsibility of the schools to teach our children about sensitive topics and it is a crime to provide them with reading materials that expose them to such perversion. Please invest in our children and stop this.

Keith Metcalf
self
Longview, TX

I would like to strongly support HB900 which stops explicit materials from being made available in public schools, thank you.

John Peet
Retired Citizen
SAGINAW, TX

I strongly support it

Samantha Smith
Retired
Van, TX

Ii strongly support HB 900 because it prohibits harmful, sexually explicit materials in public schools

Paula Bengel
Self
Carrollton, TX

I strongly support this bill to protect the innocence and protection of our children regarding sexual intimacy, inappropriate words and actions pictorially, and pornography in our libraries and classrooms. Do what is right and pass this bill!

mike o'donnell
Self
San Antonio, TX

I strongly support HB 900 because it prohibits harmful, sexually explicit materials in public schools.

Wanda Ulrey
self
Victoria, TX

I strongly support HB 900 as it will protect the innocence of our children from sexually explicit books that are harmful to their minds.

Darla Ingram
self - "concerned grandparent"
Amarillo, TX

As a concerned grandparent and a precinct chair for Randall County, I STRONGLY support HB900. Our children in Public Schools must be protected from vulgar and sexually explicit materials in public schools. Vendors must be held accountable for the types of literature that is sold to Texas school districts.

Deborah Miller
Self
Arp, TX

It is imperative that we keep sexually explicit books out of our school libraries. There is no need to groom our children for a life of human trafficking and abuse. We don't need to educate them on the various alleged genders. There are only two genders and those are male and female. There are no other genders.

Jerrie Reynolds
Self
Tyler, TX

"I strongly support HB 900 because it prohibits harmful, sexually explicit materials in public schools."

Sarah Finnell
Texan moms
WACO, TX

Please PLease support HB 900 It is appalling what is in middle and highschool books- as literature (actually porn)- I am embarrassed to even read some of the disgusting sexually explicit material that is in our Texas school librarys --availabe to kids in middle and highshool Please support this bill.

Thank you
A VERY concerned parent and wife of long time educator
Sarah Finnell

Linda Edmondson
Self, retired
Pittsburg, TX

I pray that you will support this bill to keep sexually explicit material out of our school libraries. Children are already exposed too often to these kinds of indecent materials. We do not need to have it in our schools. Thank you.

Margaret Tanner
Self
Bridgeport, TX

I strongly support HB 900 because it prohibits harmful, sexually explicit materials in public schools. Sexually explicit and pornographic books violate the penal code when in school libraries available to under age youth. Thank you for protecting our children from sexual grooming and exploitation.

Leo LaBauve, III
Orange County Republican Party of Texas
Orange, TX

Please support the banning and the removal of Sexually explicit books from our Schools these books have no business being in our Texas schools.

Jennifer Mathews
Self
Porter, TX

I strongly support HB 900 because it prohibits harmful, sexually explicit materials in public schools. I have seen these books in my own school district (Humble ISD). There is no redeeming value to them. They are PORNOGRAPHY and many include explicit pictures that should not be available in a children's library.

Jill Lorenz
Self
Waco, TX

I strongly support HB900 because it prohibits harmful, sexually explicit materials in public schools.

Sue Evenwel
Grassroots America We The People
Mt. Pleasant, TX

HB 900 is an extremely important bill to help end the sexually perverse materials that have poured into our Texas public schools and libraries. By any other definition, it is some of the rawest graphic and written pornography I have ever seen, and would be grounds for an arrest if sold on the street. I totally support this bill and ask you to pass it through committee quickly with a resounding YES, and on to the House floor for a vote.

Deb Spencer
Self
Boyd, TX

I strongly support HB 900 because it prohibits harmful, sexually explicit materials in public schools. I am running for the Boyd ISD School Board Place 1 and this is one of my highest points on my platform. We must keep our children safe from these materials.

Pedro Garcia, Major

Self

Decatur, TX

As a veteran, a parent, and life long Texan, I'm appalled that something so common sense based even has to be put into law, but such is the progressive agenda today that children are being increasingly targeted for desensitization thru repeated exposure to pornographic material.

The same leftist politicians who adamantly attempt to shut down "misinformation" on social media, are equally adamant about pushing sexual misinformation to children using anti science agendas that only introduce mental / emotional confusion wrt gender, healthy relationships and families, as well as permanent physical harm to their selves.

Pornographic material, which by its very definition serves no educational purposes, abuses the First Amendment by cloaking itself under the guise of education, when there are numerous other better alternatives that achieve the same goals (I.e. fictional entertainment, Sex Ed).

Any politician who votes against this needs to have both their head examined for mental sanity, as well as their wallets checked to see who's paying them to vote for it. Furthermore, if any Republican votes against it, you are not a Republican, but a liberal progressive masquerading as one.

Denise Bell

Self

Houston, TX

I strongly support HB 900 because it protects minors from sexually explicit materials in school. Sadly, there are hundreds of filthy book titles available to students in my children's school district (Spring Branch ISD, in Houston, TX), and I and other parents have been asking for the district to remove them. Unfortunately, books rarely get removed once they are in place in a school, and the process to remove them (the book reconsideration process) is long and arduous for a parent to go through. In addition, parents that do decide to go through the process are often smeared and publicly doxxed by leftist groups.

Here are some book titles that have been available in SBISD libraries (and sometimes on recommended reading lists) the past few years. An asterisk next to them indicates they were finally removed:

*Gender Queer

All Boys Aren't Blue

Looking For Alaska

What Girls Are Made Of

*This Book is Gay

Tricks

Triangles

Identical

Me Earl and the Dying Girl

Push/Precious

Lucky

The Bluest Eye

The Handmaids Tale Graphic Novel

Flamer

*Beyond Magenta

HB900 will help to protect children from being sexualized at a young age. Parents do not have a right to choose these books for their children because NO ONE has the right to sexualize a child. Books with sexually explicit content DO NOT belong in k-12 education, and should be reserved only for adults to read.

Thank you for passing this bill and for protecting children in the State of Texas.

Hilliard Brittain

Self

Garland, TX

One of eight top priorities of the Republican Party of Texas for this legislative session is to end the sexualization of Texas kids. If passed, HR900 will make real progress to that end by removing sexually explicit and pervasively vulgar books from school libraries in our State. How these books were ever allowed into our schools is beyond my comprehension. If you have not seen what I speak of, then you are not paying attention and, consequently, committing malfeasance. Please support this bill and any others that will help protect our juveniles from such smut. Thank you.

Carlos Huertas, Mr

Self, retired

Weatherford, TX

Please support HB 900 to keep harmful sexually explicit books out of our school libraries. So sad that some of these books are so explicit that they can't be read out loud at a school board meeting and yet they are available for our kids to read at school!

Christopher McConn

Self. Sales / public sector consulting

Houston, TX

I strongly support this bill. Sexually explicit material or gender ideology or trans indoctrination has no place in elementary schools

Gaylon Clifton

Clifton Homes LLC

Tyler, TX

I strongly support HB-900. Stop sexualizing Texas kids.

Janis Daemmrich

myself

Austin, TX

I do not agree with your rationale for this bill. Local school districts, as well as professional librarians employed by those districts, should have all the tools they need to handle deciding which books are appropriate for their schools' libraries and their schools' students. Local control works better than state mandates, especially mandates full of ambiguous and socially conservative dog-whistle terms about keeping children safe from sexual content and pornography. You're trampling on freedom of speech as well as misrepresenting what is best for the kids when you try to pass a bill that will take books off the shelves that are completely appropriate for children but seem too "woke" for certain elected officials.

Debra Dameron

Self

Temple, TX

I would like to voice my support for HB 900. I would like to see schools focus on materials that will enable our young people to contribute to society and lead a healthier more prosperous life.

Our youth are being short changed, along with our taxpayer money. The vendors need to be held responsible, and only healthy and productive materials should be added to our library's!

Denise DORITY

self - retired

Paris, TX

Please support Rep. Jared Patterson's HB900 to remove sexually explicit materials out of all our Texas schools It's actually pretty basic.. Please protect our students!

Cathy McConn

Self

Houston, TX

I support HB 900. STRONGLY. It is a shame that it has come to this that we have to monitor our books for porn and sexual indoctrination.

Karen Morgan, Mrs

Self retired

Alvord, TX

I strongly support HB900 because it prohibits sexual and vulgar books in our childrens schools. I hope it prohibits books on sodomy also. Our children should be protected from that kind of content and parents should not have to worry about their children getting exposed to trash in their school of all places.

Lindsay Hollomon

Self

Keller, TX

As a former educator and a mother of two school-aged children, I have been appalled at the reading materials available to students. I am not opposed to diversity, so please do not be confused. However, my 12 year old niece pulled a book off her classroom library shelf that had a full page of explicitly describing oral sex. That is repulsive to me that a sixth grader had this readily available to her at school.

Please note: I think library materials need to be monitored, but this book (along with thousands of others) was gifted to the school by Pearsons. It is well past due that Texas sever their ties with this company. Millions is being wasted on poorly written and glitchy computer-based materials they create. To learn they are freely putting in materials that sexualize children means they should have NO place in the Lone Star State.

Dawn McMinn

Self kindergarten teacher

Montgomery, TX

I cannot even believe the garbage in our schools. Talk about disconnect, we worry about children being victimized and sex trafficking but then in the schools we expose them to pornography.

If you spend the time to listen to people rescued from trafficking, they will tell you pornography is the gate way. Protect our children.

Vickie Hollomon

Self

The Woodlands, TX

Books provided in the libraries at school for our children to read should be "G" rated!! Some of the books that I've seen lately in the school are not and I repeat ARE NOT appropriate!! It is ridiculous that we as parents and grandparents have to worry about x-rated books being in the school library. Where are your morals and values?!? I hope and pray that you take this regulation seriously. I am writing this as a very concerned grandparent who only wants the best for my grandchildren.

Beth Noe
Self
Austin, TX

I support wholeheartedly HB900! I am appalled at some of the literature available to young students! Let's get back to teaching reading, writing and arithmetic!

Sent from my iPhone

Karen Munden
McCulloch County Republican Wonen
Rochelle, TX

Please vote to prohibit the sale or inclusion of sexually explicit books in public schools libraries.

Shannon Letchford
Self Supervisor
Round Rock, TX

It should be common sense that sexually explicit materials should NOT be available to children. It is a sad world that I even have to say that. What perverse mind even remotely thinks that allowing children access to sexually explicit books is okay? We're in the midst of a spiritual battle and Satan is dead set on perverting the minds of our children. And if you believe that this is okay, then you have evil in your heart. Satan has conquered your mind and soul! The writers and illustrators of these books have an agenda and it has no place in the libraries of any children's school. We must protect our children at all costs! If parents want their children to see this filth, they can order it off Amazon. The rest of us will continue fighting the good fight.

Rhonda Anderson
Self
Longview, TX

I appreciate your filing this crucial bill and support it's passage 100%

Marianne Horton
Parent
Spring, TX

Please clean up the trash in our school libraries and classroom libraries. In the last year, my sixth grade daughter has come home with a book including a sex scene (Everything, Everything) and one with an explicit blow job scene that references looking to porn on how to give a blowjob (Searching for Alaska). In neither case was she looking to find such a book but accidentally grabbed both books, thinking the stories were about something else. She brought the books to me, confused why she would be reading such books at school. In an effort to make school a "safe space" for everyone, we are scaring our children with content that is not age level appropriate, much level school appropriate (for any age level). I should not have to worry that my kid will be exposed to porn in her classroom. Please do something.

Sarah Reichardt
Self - Implementation
Keller, TX

I support this

Robert Hayhurst

self

Canyon, TX

As a Texas parent and taxpayer, I support this bill. There is no reason to spend taxes provided by the people of Texas on sexually explicit reading material for Texas school children other than to purposefully sexualize children. There is no educational reason to provide sexually explicit material to students. This material, which is already in our schools and must be removed, serves to delegitimize Texas public education in the eyes of most Texans and breeds distrust toward educators. Any parent who wants their children to read this type of material can purchase it with their own money and provide the material at home.

Nicole Marucci

Self/Oil&Gas

Richmond, TX

Representative Patterson, I STRONGLY support HB900. We need to protect our children and remove for good inappropriate materials out of Texas schools.

Whitney Siddons

self

Frisco, TX

As a Texas resident and parent, I support the prohibition of "sexually explicit materials" in public school and charter school libraries as provided by HB 900. Please adopt this for the sake of our children and in recognition of the supremacy that parents hold over school boards and librarians in the sexual education of their own children.

Hugh Soape

Self - S Bar Farms

Troup, TX

Sexually explicit books, pamphlets or any other such material has NO Place in public schools, especially in Texas !!!
Any form of sexual brain washing of our youth should be a criminal offense !!!!

Gilda Bayegan

Self

Houston, TX

I support HB900 to prohibit sexually oriented material in public schools and charter schools. It is the duty of publicly funded educators to teach children math, science, and reading skills. It is not the duty of publicly funded educators to teach children about sex. Rather, our schools should provide protection from sexual influences. It is up to parents to decide when their children are ready to learn about sex, and it is parents who should decide how much they are told and in which context, not the schools.

Debbie Phillips

Self

Goliad, TX

I strongly support this bill!

Tara Boto

self - stay at home mom

Austin, TX

I am FOR HB900 to pass.

Sheila Smith

Self

Tyler, TX

Please protect our kids and allow them to remain children by not allowing these schools and vendors to sexualize them with inappropriate reading materials.

Cathy Stroud, Mrs.

Cooke County Republican

Gainesville, TX

I urgently ask you to vote YES for HB 900. I have firsthand knowledge of the kind of books we are seeing in high schools and junior high schools . They are in Schools all over Cooke County. Some schools are alarmed and working on removing them and being careful about new books coming. Other schools don't seem to care. These books do not belong to be offered by our public schools or in my estimation the Public Library. They are a result of a Marxist agenda that will poison the minds of our young people. Please protect Texas young people. Vote affirmatively on HB 900 and influence everyone you can on this issue.

Respectfully, Cathy Stroud

Kerry Rickard

Self/ Small Business Owner - Market Vendor

Baytown, TX

I support HB 900. By no means should any sexually explicit content be in public school libraries. Sexuality teachings should come only from children's parents or from classes at school that the parent has given permission for their child to attend.

David Kemp, Mr

self

Plano, TX

Stop sexualizing our children. I am in total support of HB900. Rep Jared Patterson has outdone himself with this amazing piece of legislation. We thank him for the courage, commitment and setting new guidelines. We need standards for our libraries as our schools are filled with filthy books. This bill should be a top priority and should become law. Thank you for all you do to protect our kids and Country.

Traci Maze

Self

North Richland Hills, TX

I support this as a parent and in care of our kids!

Matthew Glaser

Self - Librarian

Midland, TX

Requiring vendors to disclose past sales of these titles to school districts opens a slippery slope to privacy issues concerning students who may have already read the titles. This does not mean that the titles are bad and students shouldn't be reading them, but patron privacy is a fundamental right in the library. Therefore, rating books and labeling them as "explicit" and otherwise "othering" the books infringes on the reader's right to read and their right to privacy. These books go through years of edits and review before being published for their designated age groups. The material is not inappropriate when considering the work as a whole — often, less than one percent of the work is at all "explicit" and offers a greater context to the story. People read to learn, they read to understand, and they read to empathize. Reading a fictional narrative does not endorse or indoctrinate any ideas — it adds to the literary merit and the emotional depth. These books are being labeled for the correct age groups, and how the librarians organize their shelves is based on their professional education and their professional standards. Trust the librarians to do their jobs. Librarians learn instruction, education, organization, and more in school — not just how to "shelve books and read all day." It is a science for a reason. Library science studies information AND it's organization for each different age group. Trust them to do their jobs.

Malen Kemp

Self

Dallas, TX

Dear Representative Patterson

I support the prohibition of "sexually explicit materials" in public school and charter school libraries. Please return our school libraries to include classic literature and books that uplift the morals and values of a Judeo Christian worldview. I am so sick and tired of finding CRT and sexually explicit materials along with weak academic materials in our schools. Why are we watering down the learning experience for our children? Please change this.

Sincerely

Malen Kemp

Jennifer Eckhart

CCDF-USA Montgomery County

Magnolia, TX

Parents need more support and tools to rid the public schools of obscene and inappropriate books. School Boards are making it difficult to remove such books, largely due to counsel from TASB and their mis-application of the Pico case.

I support this Bill as it is a step in the right direction to put parents back in control of what their children are exposed to.

April Kerze

Self, Engineer

SPRING, TX

I strongly support HB 900 because it prohibits harmful, sexually explicit materials from entering our public schools. Our school districts and communities are wasting a tremendous amount of time and resources trying to sort through library and classroom book content one book at a time to determine which books are appropriate. This process is not efficient and our current processes are clearly allowing some inappropriate materials to enter our schools. For these reasons, Texas needs legislation in place to direct school districts on what material is acceptable in our public schools and keep materials that are sexually explicit and pervasively vulgar from entering our schools in the first place. If these books never enter our schools, we do not need to waste time and energy on the backend trying to get them removed.

Eric Waller

self

Big Sandy, TX

I strongly support HB900 because it prohibits sexually explicit materials in public schools. The guideline should incorporate topics that parents would be better to personally educate their children in because it has to do with intimate family values that form the foundation of all healthy civilizations: strong marriages and strong families. Government institutions should be protecting families from those forces that would invade, indoctrinate, and eventually replace family values that parents should be the gatekeeper of.

Sue Wall, Mrs

Self

Azle, TX

I strongly support HB 900 because it prohibits harmful , sexually explicit materials in public schools.

Carol Elkins

Women's Bible study

Azle, TX

I like HB 900

Kathy Keller

Self

Azle, TX

I am strongly in support of BANNING all books and materials of a sexually explicit nature from ALL public and private schools and libraries. Our children have no need to be exposed to this garbage for ANY reason whatsoever and should be shielded from it at all cost!

Laura Heffelfinger, Mrs

Tax payer

Cresson, TX

Please pass HB 900. Our TX code has set standards for what is explicit sexual materials and our public schools should select books in accordance with those standards.

I have seen some of these books. These books have explicit line drawings normalizing masturbation, homosexuality, etc. Some of these books have disclaimers in them as a notice not taking any accountability for any damage caused to children.

Many TX school district standards state that abstinence

should be taught. These books instead encourage

risky behavior which can cause disease and perversion of sex. With limited space in our school libraries we should be

promoting excellence not degeneracy. I am not happy as a tax payer that these books do not represent our community standards.

Thanks,

Laura Heffelfinger

Sara Heizer

Self/ Retired Teacher

Weatherford, TX

As a former teacher, grandparent and lifelong Texan, I wholeheartedly support HB 900. "Sexually explicit" no longer refers to mere anatomical drawings but "how to" guides for every manner of sexual interaction between children, between adults and children, same sex and opposite sex. Such materials are meant to encourage exploration and exploitation of children at every age level. Having these materials easily available in Public Schools adds credence to otherwise disgustingly inappropriate behavior by children of any age. Thank you, Sara Heizer, Weatherford, TX

Jessica Welsh

Self

Spring, TX

I support HB 900 because I am tired of the attempts to desensitize my children to sexually explicit content. Books containing sexually mature content do not belong in school libraries. Not all children are emotionally capable of being exposed to content of this nature, and they deserve to feel safe. I am appalled at the level of graphic sexual content that has been found within books in Texas schools recently.

William Stevens

self / attorney

Gunter, TX

Please remove the porn and the politically-driven liberal agenda reading materials (that is being generous in describing this stuff) from our schools. These publications should have never made its way into our schools. These books have absolutely no educational value. They have one purpose: indoctrination. Now it is imperative that you, the legislature, do your job and implement legislation necessary to remove these items from our schools. And, not only remove, but ensure that these kinds of books and other materials never, ever, make their way back into our schools. Make no mistake, these things are poison, and the presence of these books anywhere else would be criminal. Make it criminal to be in schools.

Virginia Bettis

Self

Azle, TX

I support HB 900 that will prohibit sexually explicit material

In our schools that is harmful to our children . Any sexuality explicit material is unacceptable and serves no educational purpose.

Rebecca Barton

self

Washington, TX

I taught students from age 3 to 21 except junior high. I can tell you that students have enough on their plate without having to deal with changing their bodies. The schools should stay out of the business of indoctrination of the idea that a child should change their sex. It does not help students to accept everyone, it only makes them wonder what is wrong with their own bodies. Please pass a bill to keep changing a child's sex out of our schools.

Brenda Shepherd, Mrs.

self, public school teacher

Wichita Falls, TX

Please support the prohibition of "sexually explicit materials" in public school and charter school libraries, and everywhere on their campuses.

Brandy Marley, Mrs

Self - Army Active Duty

Belton, TX

There is absolutely no reason why any parent should have to worry about what books are available in school libraries. How did it ever get to this point? I'm truly ashamed that any state would ever allow anyone's children to have access to books that include sexually explicit material, to include LGBTQ. Why are we sexualizing our children and exposing them to this nonsense?!?! Why are we allowing librarians to fuel the fire for this progressive left movement?

My husband and I are both active duty military and we work tirelessly. I didn't realize our public schools were this far gone until I did. I never imagined I would have to vet my children's school books prior to reading them. Why?! I've put my faith in public schools since my first child turned 5. I'm beginning to regret my decision. Private schools are beginning to sound a lot more appealing.

Please take action now, before it's too late. Please save a generation of innocent kids that have been torn down by political theater and ideology . Wearing useless and pointless masks during COVID19 was enough, now this?!

Enough is enough, I will continue to do my part to keep our children safe. Safe from tyranny, and progressive ideologies. Thank you

Peggy DeLeenheer, Mrs

Self

Waco, TX

Please stop the sexualization of our children in Texas through these pornographic materials and books!

Ronald DeLeenheer, Mr

Self

Waco, TX

Please stop the sexualization of our children in Texas through these pornographic books and materials!

Linda Stetz

SelfHB

Bryan, TX

I strongly support HB 900 which prohibits sexually explicit materials in Texas schools. This should never have happened. Possibly tax payer money used for lobbying.

Patrick Madden, Mr

Self retired

Mckinney, TX

I strongly support HB 900. The type of pornography in our school libraries is as addictive and destructive as liquor is to our children. Before the internet, a person had to travel to the part of town where the liquor stores, adult book stores and prostitution were allowed to operate. Now in the McKinney, Tx school libraries, children of any age are allowed to use their library card to check out any item from any library. This action by the state will correct the issue for our district and others in the same situation.

Sharon Thompson

Self

Orange, TX

Please vote yes

Susan Bell

self

Comfort, TX

I support HB 900. Our children should not be exposed to improper materials and books. This world has enough "darkness". Leave foul influences out of the hands of children. Empower parents to protect their children.

Michael Smith

Cherokee County Republican Voting PCT 15

Jacksonville, TX

I strongly support HB 900 because it prohibits harmful, sexually explicit materials in public schools. I have opposed such obscene materials in schools in my previous state of residence, and oppose them here now for the same reasons. The federal government will never enforce its own obscenity laws; it is up to Texas legislators like you to protect Texas schoolchildren using the power of the state. It is time. Thank you.

Brenda Deshotel

Self

Orange, TX

These books belong in the trash not in schools.

Alexandra Marchetta

Self/Self

Celina, TX

The books in our public schools should not contain anything sexually explicit or information in regards to a persons sexuality. It is not a schools place to teach our children about this topic or to continue to try and sexualize our children. It is the responsibility of parents to have these conversations with their kids and our kids should not be able to find this information in our school libraries.

Denise Lunski
Families Engaged for Effective Education
Arlington, TX

I fully support this HB by Representative Jared Patterson. Public School Libraries should not have these types of books in them and using the taxpayers money to pay for them is absurd.

Pete Commiato
personally interested
Long Branch, TX

I strongly support HB900

Teresa Bussell, Dr.
Self
Powderly, TX

I am writing in support of HB 900. I have been actively involved as a community member in my local school district, North Lamar ISD. This bill will be a big help to remove these inappropriate books in K-12 public education.

Andrew McConn
DrillingInfo
Houston, TX

I support this bill.
But it doesn't go nearly far enough. Don't be scared of federal viewpoint-discrimination law. You can do more.

Kristie Wong
Self, parent
Frankston, TX

I strongly support HB 900 because it prohibits harmful, sexually explicit materials in public schools.

Gwen withrow
State Republican Executive Committeewoman SD4
Montgomery, TX

please please please remove the obscene books from school libraries. I would never have exposed my children to such filth. It must be removed. I am for HB900

Ellen Leyrer
Self, Retired
Plano, TX

I strongly support HB 900 because it prohibits harmful, sexually explicit materials in public schools. The obscenity exemption is being abused. These books are not educational, more like tools used by predators for 'grooming'.

Heather Palamidessi
Self
Prosper, TX

We shouldn't have to fight or protest. Porn and sexually explicit materials DO NOT belong in schools.

Eliz Markowitz, Dr.

Self

Katy, TX

Education by its very nature requires individuals to analyze and evaluate information presented. When presented with information, ideas, and beliefs that differ from our personal views, such education requires a growth mindset—and growth can be uncomfortable.

As a resident of Fort Bend County, one of the most diverse counties in the nation, I am dismayed by the recent wave of book banning across this nation and state. The Supreme Court in Board of Education, Island Trees Union Free School District v. Pico (1982) ruled that public schools can bar books that are “pervasively vulgar,” but they cannot remove books “simply because they dislike the ideas contained in those books.” I call upon the legislature, in a state that has made national news over the years for their removal of literature from school libraries, to both operationally define “pervasively vulgar” and provide the public with concrete reasons for every work that has been removed.

It is imperative that our students be exposed to a breadth of diverse beliefs and perspectives in order to successfully navigate the global society in which we live. Only through exposure to a diverse set of views can our children gain the empathy necessary to understand situations outside of their own. We must not be myopic or live in an echo chamber, as doing so will only leave our children, our future leaders, unable to successfully navigate and solve the problems that we face as a society.

We learn from the past, and someone much wiser than myself coined the phrase, “History repeats itself.” While I am no historian, I cannot recall a single time when the censorship of ideas and materials was deemed positive or beneficial in retrospect. Not once have I heard historians credit those who actively censored the written word as transformational leaders. Rather, such censorship has been found to be both suppressive and oppressive in nature, seeking to marginalize or demean certain populations. And history has never favored oppression or the oppressor.

We are privileged to live in a country that values freedom. And, as Americans, we have a responsibility to stay vigilant and protect such rights for our current and future generations. Anything less would be an affront to our nations heroes who have fought and died for these freedoms.

John Murray

self parent

Austin, TX

I strongly support HB 900 because it prohibits harmful, sexually explicit materials in public schools. I want to be the arbitrar of my children's learning on sexuality; not the public school.

Dora Caywood

Self/Retired

Sherman, TX

I strongly support HB900 because it prohibits harmful, sexually explicit materials in public schools.

Tom Kimbel

Self retired

Tomball, TX

Please support , co sponsor , & vote for stopping sexually material from being available at schools & other public places.

Christine Kalmbach

Self, Realtor

Houston, TX

This bill is an outstanding example of what the State can do to mitigate exposure and exploitation of students in regards to lewd, lascivious and objectionable material in our schools and their libraries. Children are being exposed to disgusting content without their parents knowledge or consent. Please everyone should support and endorse this HB900 bill by Patterson!

ROBERT FOWLER

SELF

LONGVIEW, TX

"I strongly support HB900 because it prohibits harmful, sexually explicit materials in public schools" When are our representatives going to listen to We The People TEXANS and do what is morally right, common sense people? We are paying more attention now, we are awoken, beware.

O Hill

Self Retired Teacher

Orange, TX

Please pass bill HB 900. As a retired teacher, I support the removal of sexually explicit materials from our schools. Children are exposed to inappropriate materials in so many other ways. Schools should be teaching History, Science, Math and Language Arts, not sexuality.

Evangeline Oney

Self/Release of Information Specialist

Leander, TX

Minor children of school age should have books that encourage educational growth pertaining to math, reading, writing, history, science. Recreational story books should be age appropriate without adult content.

Ally Raskin

Self

Dallas, TX

The fact that we would even have to ask for pornography to be removed from the libraries is kind of a joke. This should be a no-brainer to get through.

Sandra Chambers

None

Magnolia, TX

I support the regulation of sexual material made available (including material that may be on loan, promoted or sold) to the students of Texas by public entities, such as public schools.

Angela Tweedie

Self-Retired

Tyler, TX

My name is Angela Tweedie, I live in Tyler, TX, my state Rep. is Cole Hefner. I strongly support HB900.

Thank you, Angela

Doug Tweedie

Self-Retired

Tyler, TX

My name is Doug Tweedie, I live in Tyler, TX, my state Rep. is Cole Hefner. I strongly support HB900.

Thank you,

Doug Tweedie

Cathy Cocco

Austin

Austin, TX

I support this bill to protect our children. Stop the grooming and I would recommend firing the teachers, staff and administrators who support these teachings.

Amy Ardington, Ms

Self/attorney

Bellville, TX

First of all, this bill is unconstitutionally vague. "Sexually explicit" and "pervasively vulgar" are highly subjective and "squishy" terms. As a practical matter, I doubt that many books by reputable publishers of educational materials would meet this description in its limiting and pejorative sense. On the other hand, materials that are explicitly sexually can be educational and informative for high school students. For health reasons, knowledge about sexual matters is vital to children of a certain age and it cannot be taught by all parents. "Pervasively vulgar" can mean wildly different things to different people; Chaucer & Shakespeare's writings could be deemed pervasively vulgar by the prudish. Trust teachers! ThisCease trying to impose puritanical values not shared by the majority in our society.

Heather Daoust

Self. Mother.

Dripping Springs, TX

Yes! Yes! Yes! Protect our children! Make schools safe and conservative again!

Farajallah Yazbek

Self Candidate for Amarillo College Board Of Regents

Amarillo, TX

PLEASE remove the exemption from prosecution for presentation of these types of books (pornography or sexually-oriented materials, including child pornography) the purpose of "educational value." There is no educational value from possessing, distributing or otherwise making available to minors ANY representation of sexual activities geared towards anyone under the age of consent (the age which is legal to enter adulthood). Our tax dollars are going to supporting materials that would get us arrested for possession of child pornography and giving it to children under the guise of "education." Let's close this loophole now and get the children back to being children.

Hunter Bonne

Marion County Republican Assembly

Lone Star, TX

I strongly support HB900, because it prohibits harmful and sexually explicit materials in the public schools. Our schools are institutions for learning, and not an indoctrination camp into sex, be it straight or gay. As someone that works in a public school district, I have seen many books out on display that contains subjects about lesbian and gay relationships. Even those that are not, some are about horror, and invariably have stories about rape and sex in general. This can be accessed by children as young as the 6th grade. This is something that frankly is unconscionable, and the fact that this is happening is the reason why we need a law on the books to stop this sort of thing.

Daphne Hoffacker

The children of Texas

Austin, TX

As someone who has been working in classrooms and libraries for the entirety of my child's school life, I find it strange and sort of odd that anyone would suggest that anyone other than certified, trained professional Librarians should have the final word on what's appropriate content for their schools and communities. They are literally trained to understand the needs and opportunities. Parent, on the other hand, may know their children better than others (although this is often not the case - we see plenty of examples of parents who seem more committed to their idealized version of their children than the actual humanity standing in front of them - but I digress), but they often aren't trained in literacy, have little to no cultural competency skills that would allow them to look at the big picture of their community and beyond their own offspring, and are untrained on the dynamics of education and the effects of content delivery. And politicians, including those appointed by the Governor, seem the least qualified of all - substituting ideology for sound practices throughout our education system. Add to this head-scratching effort to turn the idea of expertise on its head is the even more amusing notion that children are in danger of getting sexual content from books. Have you heard of the internet? There isn't a kid in the country who hasn't figured out how to get access to sexual content without ever stepping in a library. Sexual content in any of the books that are on various lists for "removal" from library shelves is in the context of a larger story - a story that is already familiar to far too many children who are not realistically supported by their families - and not the central theme, as opposed to the pornography our children can readily find long after the libraries have closed for the day. Removing books for any reason other than a librarian (often it's a professional group of them, not an individual decision) is painfully missing the entire point of education, books and our children's journey to adulthood. Please resist any efforts to take the power of that decision out of the hands of professionals.

Rhonda Jordan

Self, retired, active in correcting Waller ISD curriculum

Hockley, TX

As a citizen of Waller County and native Texan I expect my legislators to fully support and move HB900 through the House. Our children are the future of our state, and our Creator commands us to protect them from harm. The liberal Satanist indoctrination of our children will not be tolerated. In response to their evil efforts there has been an exodus of public schools in favor of return to education. Should this practice be allowed to continue, or in some cases pushed along, we, the guardians of our children's future, will steadfastly testify in the Capitol and at the SBOE/TEA hearings. It is imperative HB900 is voted forward.

Regina Johnson
Katy Independent School District Parent
Fulshear, TX

Dear elected officials,

We the People stand behind House Bill 900 for the State of Texas. We the Parents of Katy Independent School District in Katy, TX stand behind House Bill 900 for our students. We've fought our school district admin, instructional material heads of department, librarians and board of trustees for over a year and a half on the weak board policy that manages in class and library materials. The issue with degrading, disgusting and inappropriate materials is not just with those materials students have access to in the campus libraries and online. It's also a huge problem with selections chosen for students for in-class instruction including book club, which is a graded exercise K-12. It's time to demand all ISD's do a complete audit to remove materials both in the current library selections but also in the supply chain procurement process. Stop working alongside a progressive group like American Library Association and accepting award winning books without a detailed review of each title. We the Tax Payers and Stakeholders of public education deserve to have our tax dollars spent on instructional and non-curricular items that are multi genre, multi cultural and that speak to all demographics but that ARE NOT disgusting, degrading or inappropriate. We are demanded by the KISD Board of Trustees to provide a disclaimer during public forum at all board of trustee meetings if we plan to read inappropriate materials so that our weak board of trustee members are prepared for what they may hear. However, our students are not afforded that same luxury. Texas public education is declining when compared to nationwide options, and that in itself is a travesty. It's time for leadership to be leaders for once, partner with parents and students and make Texas Education stand above the rest once again! The woke culture war needs to stop injecting itself into the K-12 setting especially in materials like books and in-class instructional items. Books like "Flamer", "This Book is Gay", etc. REMAIN on KISD shelves even after level challenges with administration and speaking out to the board of trustees. Our concerns continue to fall on deaf ears. Don't be another set of deaf ears! I have worked with SBOE representatives and our fight against KISD has been placed in front of Commissioner Mike Morath and Governor Abbott. I'm happy to share those materials and more.

Karla Oquin
Self; Legal Assistant
San Angelo, TX

I strongly support HB 900 because it prohibits harmful, sexually explicit materials in public schools. Young minds are very impressionable, and such materials are detrimental to children and young adults.

Kate Hancock
Self, teacher
College Station, TX

I strongly support HB 900 because it prohibits harmful, sexually explicit materials in public schools.

Dave Keeler
Self
Austin, TX
FOR HB 900

I support SB 900! Schools should be safe for children of all ages. Sexually explicit and pervasively vulgar content should not be allowed in classrooms or the library. Texas public schools must prohibit schools from possessing, acquiring, and distributing materials considered sexually explicit and pervasively vulgar. Make Texas Schools Safe!

Cindy Triggs
Self
Georgetown, TX

I urge the members of this Committee to vote for HB 900 to protect children from being exposed to books that are harmful to their emotional and psychological well-being. Our society has long recognized the need to protect children from exposure to pornography. For decades we've had ratings systems for movies, television shows and video games in regard to sexual content. Why would school libraries include books that contain material that cannot be shown on television? At a time when children are recovering from the emotional and psychological damage of the pandemic lockdowns it is critical that schools be a safe space where children can acquire the knowledge and learn the skills needed for them to succeed in life. Confusing or frightening them with pornographic materials is counter to that goal.

It is also important that parents be involved with their children's education and determine how and when children are taught about sexuality. No teacher should be providing sex education or sexually explicit materials to children without parental approval. Each child is unique, and only the parent knows when and how to teach a child about sex.

Let children be children!

Terry Kosobud
Retired
Austin, TX

America was built on freedom of speech and thought. Book banning is simply un-American. Teachers need to be able to discuss with students what is written in books and explain that just because it is written in a book does not make it so. Telling students that they can't read a particular book is often taken as a challenge to do the opposite and read that book. By restricting information and discouraging freedom of thought, censors undermine one of the primary functions of education: teaching students how to think for themselves. Such actions, assert free speech proponents, endanger tolerance, free expression, and democracy.

George Gentzler I I, mr
self retired
Orange, TX

please vote yes on this bill to remove sexual explicit books from texas schoo libraries!

Michelle Campbell, Mrs
Self
Red Oak, TX

I SUPPORT THIS BILL

Sylvia Coulson
Self
Waxahachie, TX

I support this bill. Every time I search for graphic sexual content books in my local Waxahachie ISD library, sadly I find some. I have contacted the ones responsible and was assured this would be addressed and these books would be removed. Yesterday I just did a search for the book that Jarod Patterson sent to house members in an email. Here is the description that is in the system:

"Beautiful"- When thirteen-year-old Cassie moves to a suburb of Seattle, she is determined to leave her boring, good-girl existence behind. She chooses some dangerous new friends and is quickly caught up in their fast-paced world of drugs, sex, secrets, and cruelty.

Cassie's new existence both thrills and terrifies her. She embraces the numbness she feels from the drugs, starts sleeping with an older boy, and gets pulled into a twisted friendship triangle that is tinged with violence and abuse. Cassie is trapped in a swift downward spiral, and there's no turning back.

A closer look shows that the sex and drugs are graphic and totally inappropriate for anyone especially students. Please pass this bill out of committee and force our schools to remove inappropriate content.

Elain Peveto, Ms
self
Orange, TX

Please vote yes on HB 900 removing sexual explicit books from our school libraries

CHRISTIANA KEELER

Self
Austin, TX

I support SB 900! Schools should be safe for children of all ages. Sexually explicit and pervasively vulgar content should not be allowed in classrooms or the library. Texas public schools must be prohibit schools from possessing, acquiring, and distributing materials considered sexually explicit and pervasively vulgar. Make Texas Schools Safe!

Elizabeth Rocamontes
self - retired
denison, TX

I strongly support HB 900 because it prohibits harmful, sexually explicit materials in public schools. Thank you,

Lisa Williams
self, attorney
Austin, TX

I strongly support HB 900 because it prohibits harmful, sexually explicit materials in public schools. There is no reason to have books depicting or discussing any type of sexual activity in schools. Such material sexualizes children who are below the age of consent.

Linda Durnin
self
Austin, TX

"I strongly support HB 900 because it prohibits harmful, sexually explicit materials in public schools." There is no need for students to read this trash nor does the taxpayer need to pay for this pornography in the school library. As a tax payer and a voter, we need students to learn the basics such as English, Math, Science, Technology, and critical skills so that they can earn a living and support themselves. Education is not free. Tax payers are funding this privilege. There is no need for students to be introduced to pornography which will be harmful to them and their families later. Sexual addictions are related to reading this type of material. Let's go back to teaching the basics. The student needs to be in a healthy environment free from mental perversion.

Gerald Brignac
Citizen/Retired Teacher/
Orange, TX

I have browsed the PDF access to the proposal. Some of it seems to override local governance of TEA guidelines already in place...that concerns me. However, I do support and consider it a good idea to require book vendors to label or rate books regarding content.

Obviously, it is illegal to utilize very questionable content in a public school. But I do not relish the possibility that legitimate Health courses or Biology and even History materials could be deemed "sexually oriented" when interpretation is incorrectly utilized. Laws which exist need tweaking or clarifying. And rating books and restricting some vendors would be a good idea.

Thank you.

Gerald A. Brignac

Melissa Blasa
Self
AUSTIN, TX

Freedom of speech and thought is a fundamental right of all Americans therefore regulating what books are available in school libraries is simply un-American. Teachers need to be able to discuss with students what is written in books and explain that just because it is written in a book does not make it true. By restricting information and discouraging freedom of thought, censors undermine one of the primary functions of education: teaching students how to think for themselves. As a proponent of free speech, I feel that regulating, aka banning, books endangers tolerance, free expression, and democracy.

Ann Glass, Mrs.
Self
Orange, TX

HB 900 {Please vote yes on this bill to remove sexual explicit books from our school libraries, not allowed any further type of book to be purchased and to do this immediately]

Manuel Ramon
self/concerned parent
Orange, TX

Please vote yes on this bill to REMOVE sexual explicit books from our school libraries, not allowing any further types of books to be purchased and the do this immediately.

Pam Teal
Self
Orange, TX

Please vote yes on this bill to remove sexual explicit books from our school libraries, not allowing any further types of book to be purchased and to do this immediately.

Gayla Grunau
Self
Amarillo, TX

I support that vendors be required to label sexually explicit materials and issue a recall of sexually explicit books sold to Texas schools by 09/2023.

CARROL TEAL
self
orange, TX

I'm asking you to vote yes for bill # HB 900. It is terrible what is being presented to our children today. There are many outside forces that we cannot control but this bill is something that you have the power to do something about. Please consider the children when making your decision.

Paul Tomassi
self
Houston, TX

I strongly support HB900 because it helps to prevent sexualization of our children.

Tricia Richner
Self, business owner
Temple, TX

Strongly support this bill. I have been working (along with several other parents and residents) for well over a year to remove sexually explicit and other age inappropriate materials out of my children's high school library. Our superintendent and our school board have slow walked the process by creating a policy that shifts the burden of identifying and then challenging library materials to the parents and/or citizens. Only 4 books have been removed and now the "policy" is under review, pausing the challenge (and subsequent removal) of any additional materials. I simply cannot understand why these materials are not immediately removed the moment they are found.

Lyn Stone, Mrs.
Moms for Liberty, Grassroots America, One Million Moms, Texas Education 911
Arlington, TX

As a grandparent with grandchildren in the Texas public school system, I strongly urge you to support HB 900 because it prohibits harmful, inappropriate, sexually explicit materials in our Texas public schools.

Ashley Ramon
self/homeschool teacher
Orange, TX

Please vote yes on this bill to REMOVE sexual explicit books from our school libraries, not allowing any further types of books to be purchased and the do this immediately.

Janet Skamra
Myself
MINEOLA, TX

Please support protecting our students from inappropriate materials on our libraries. Our country was built on the bible and good moral principles ..please support this format and protect our students from the onslaught of immoral materials and extreme leftist policies.

Rita Estes
Self
Amarillo, TX

I implore you to support this bill to protect our children from such explicit material and books. These materials and books need to be recalled ASAP. How could this ever have ever been allowed by our Texas representatives? Make this right for the future of our childrens health and minds! PLEASE!!!!

Meleah Withers
Self, registered nurse
Hillsboro, TX

As I understand it, HB 900 would prevent public school libraries from acquiring or purchasing harmful or sexually explicit materials, or materials that are pervasively vulgar and educationally unsuitable. Texas parents have become increasingly alarmed about the books and content found in public school libraries that are extremely inappropriate and obscene in the public education system. HB 900 is a common sense solution to increase public school transparency and support parental rights while protecting children. I am a parent and support HB 900. Thank you.

Marsha Woodard
Self
Hankamer, TX

Children should not be exposed to illicit books with adult subject matters in schools of any type. School is for learning not sexual indoctrination. Please vote to pass this bill and save our children.

Elizabeth Phillips
Self
Baytown, TX

Please vote yes on this bill to remove sexual explicit books from our school libraries and not allow any further books of this kind to be purchased!
Thank you

Deb Hillis
Self
Clarendon, TX

We must protect our children! School should be a safe place for our children, which includes them not being exposed to things they can't yet fully understand.

Celia Railey
Self, retired (Grandmother)
Big Spring, TX

Allowing obscene materials in school libraries are like putting a stamp of approval on pornography but much worse. Children getting exposed and hooked is not something any school should be involved with in any way. Please pass this bill and block the destruction of kids lives in their own schools. School should be a safe place not a storehouse of destruction that parents and grandparents can't trust.

LeLynne Waltman Knight

Self

Mansfield, TX

I have been an avid reader my entire life. I am also a registered nurse having spent 37 years as a pediatric nurse. I know kids and blocking their knowledge to meet your agenda doesn't work.

Books are needed on ALL topics. As a parent I was aware of what my child read. As a parent I encouraged my child to read a variety of topics.

Why are we wasting precious resources and time worrying about books? Any child can open the internet and read very quickly WAY more than any single book. Quit worrying about books in our schools. The only way to fight ignorance is to allow education. That can be as easy as reading a book even one that you don't approve of.

Put your focus on our Foster System. How many children have lost their lives in our system here in Texas this year? Work on that atrocity. Wouldn't that be a greater use of your energy?

Marilyn Harris

self - retired

Sanger, TX

Thank you for considering my comments and request for your to vote in favor of HB 900.

My husband and I are retired and from the generation that this issue was never a problem. We attended public school and our libraries never had X rated books available for us children.

Our grandchildren should have the same experience in their public school libraries.

It should be against the law for any public school in the state of Texas to purchase for the school library any book that targets children that is sexually explicit and belongs in an adult sex X rated book store.

We sure don't want our tax dollars supporting this filth in our public school libraries.

It is a shame that we are having this terrible problem!

Marilyn & Danny Harris

Glenda Martin

Self

Orange, TX

Please vote YES on this bill to remove sexual explicit books from our school libraries, and not allow any further purchase of books of this type. This action needs to be done immediately.

Mary Oberle, Mrs.

Self- retired

Sugar Land, TX

Please know that I am in favor of H B 900. We need desperately to protect our children from obscene books. Please vote in favor of this bill.

Viki Norman, Ms.

Self

Irving, TX

Please stop obscene and sexually explicit materials in the library from being purchased and pushed on our children.

R. Robinson
Self, Retired
Austin, TX

I strongly urge you to support and pass House Bill 900 to make it illegal for public schools to sexually exploit and sexualize children and youth through harmful books, media, and other materials currently being bought by school systems all over Texas. I write you as a Texas grandmother, a member of a parents' rights organization, and a taxpayer. I have personally seen some of these materials. They teach our kids, very often without parental knowledge or consent, that sexual promiscuity, prostitution, violence, and drugs are acceptable lifestyle options, when we all know they can and do lead impressionable kids into deadend lives of illness, misery, addictions, and despair. How dare our schools, who with our tax dollars are supposed to equip our kids for hopeful futures, destroy our children! Who gave them the right to dictate morals to our kids, to take over our rightful parental role as the moral teachers of our kids?! PLEASE PASS HB 900!

Brenda Edwards
Teachers
Bridge City, TX

Please vote YES on this bill to remove sexual explicit books from our school libraries, and not allow any further purchase of books of this type.

-

Brooke Martin
Citizen
Orange, TX

Please vote "YES" on this bill to remove this garbage from our schools, and not allow any more of its kind to be purchased. This is absolutely crazy to even be an issue. This should be done immediately!!!

Kelly Woodard
Self
Baytown, TX

Get back to teaching our kids how to read, write, math, trades, science, debate, agriculture, etc . Our education system is a joke. Vote yes

Elizabeth Switek
Self, Librarian
Austin, TX

I am writing in regards to HB900, which is a completely unnecessary overstep by the state legislature into local school districts and their libraries. School librarians already follow Board approved collection development policies as well as purchase books that are appropriate for their specific school populations. They know their schools and their readers better than the state legislature.

It also seems to be a waste of time and effort to require publishers to jump through this hoop for the state of Texas when books are already reviewed by a variety of organizations (Kirkus , Horn Book, School Library Journal, Titlewave etc) and noted with what grade level and age they are intended for. The state legislature may be unaware of this and has apparently not consulted school librarians to find out that we already have this information.

I ask that this bill does not move forward and is not passed. It is unsupported by most of the Texas voters who have, poll after poll, said they do not support book bans or government oversight into local matters. If you're the part of small government that show that and let each school district continue to take care of their own students.

Brenda Swan
Self
Bridge City, TX

The State education system has no business teaching children anything sexual. It is up to the parents to teach their children what they want them to learn about sexual explicit materials.

Joline TATE
Garland Tea Party
Garland, TX

I strongly support HB 900. Please take a stand to get harmful, sexually explicit materials in public schools.

Linda Woodard
Self
Orange, TX

Vote yes to remove sexual explicit books from the libraries in public schools and not to allow any more of these books to be purchased and placed in our school libraries immediately. Thank you

Jo Dennis, Mrs.
Self
Abilene, TX

Please support this bill to help clean up our schools and protect our children!

Jacob Martin
Citizen
Orange, TX

Please vote "YES" to this to get this stuff out of schools and do it immediately. This is crazy this even an issue.

Lorie Meynig

self

Austin, TX

Thank you for passing this bill to protect our Texas Children. This bill is important to me because many moms and grandmoms have been sounding the alarm regarding pornographic books in the public school libraries and it's basically been falling on deaf ears. I am aware that in Austin, Texas a gift of "Welcoming Books" - 28 books in all- were given to many of the public school libraries. These were given by LGTBQIA activists and were children's books that welcomed the idea of dressing in a dress if you are a boy. These books were used in story time so that the parents would never know. This is confusing for little ones. Teachers were pressured in Austin to read these books. Many did not want to. We are watching a generation completely unravel and many are being guided by these concepts that are totally age inappropriate. I went to the Capitol two sessions ago and went to the republican and the democrat offices to help the masses see the problems with showing children cartoon porn. The book called "It's Perfectly Normal" has Planned Parenthood's Cecile Richard's idea of what sex ed for 11 year old boys and up would look like. She wrote part of the Forward. This book discusses masterbation and the "new" consent definition.... basically ask a friend on the play ground if you want to do a sex act and if he does - magic - consent! In the book, It's Perfectly Normal it tries to normalize all the new sex concepts and practices. One of the worst cartoon porn pics is of a little girl bending over with no panties on and you see her vagina. This picture has made grown men blush. This has to stop. If grandmas and grandpas don't want to see this one book then why are we allowing children for the last 10 years to have it in the public school libraries along with many others for all to see? We need to spend time teaching phonics, math and writing. We have lost our way. There are also graphic books that depict abuse, rape, incest. Yes, horrible things happen to youth but NO, we do not need to read books about the rape or the incest situation to bring healing. Usually, that would trigger the child and traumatize them all over again. We need books that show healthy families and show a way to walk through horrid times without the very horrible abuse descriptions and find victory over the situation. In Austin there is a book that shows sex acts clearly of one boy with another. This is straight up porn. Thank you for caring for the next generation, your grandchildren or even just your neighbor's children next door. Please pass HB 900 by Patterson! Thank you!

John Martin

Self

Orange, TX

Please vote YES on this bill to remove sexually explicit books from our school libraries and not allow any further purchase of books of this type. This should be done immediately.

Tina Tingle

Self

Victoria, TX

I strongly support HB900 because it prohibits harmful sexually explicit materials in our public schools

Leigh Martin

Self/ teacher

Orange, TX

Vote yes to remove sexually explicit books from school libraries; to not allow any more to be purchased and for this to be done immediately. A school should not be responsible for exposing students to this material.

Margaret Daniel

Self

Katy, TX

As a former teacher, parent and PTA executive board member I felt it is important to travel to Austin to ask you to vote in support of HB 900 to regulate and restrict what books can be included in school libraries.

Summer Crow
Self
Fort Worth, TX

I am a parent of 3 in Keller ISD. I am in support of HB900, The READER Act. My website, www.betweenthebookcovers.com has been updated to include only examples of sexually explicit books that have been found in TX school libraries. If you question voting “yes” for this bill, please take the time to look at the content shown on this site. As you are evaluating, please ...

- 1) View through the lens and life experiences of a 14 year old child (youngest patron that would have access to high school books). How will this shape their view of sex?
- 2) Think about the parents – do they have time to read 600 page novels to look for explicit sex prior to their kids reading a book? Is this the new expectation for public school parents?
- 3) Books do not have content warnings. Is it fair to a child that’s fighting for their mind to stay pure in other media sources to suddenly encounter explicit sex through a book they get from their school?
- 4) How do these scenes compare to rated R movie sex scenes? Are the more detailed? More intimate? More personal due to the use of your imagination and connection to the characters? Do they create a more visceral experience?
- 5) How would you feel if your child or grandchild encountered explicit sex in this way through their school?

I appreciate that you have put yourselves in a role to make laws to protect TX citizens. Being exposed to this content and deciding next steps is a heavy burden to carry; I’ve felt it. Knowing this content is permeating the minds of our next generation is heartbreaking and when I see teens facing anxiety, depression, uncertainty, confusion in what constitutes healthy sex ... I worry that this is a contributor. Please pass this bill so we can all rest easy knowing, while other things may harm our next generation, we worked together to control that which we can control.

<https://betweenthebookcovers.com/>

Thank you,
Summer Crow

Larry Gremminger
Self, Retired
RICHMOND, TX

The exposure of our kids to these sexually explicit books and other articles in our schools is totally unacceptable and should be stopped by punishing those responsible for this trash to be in our schools and available to our students. Please do whatever is necessary to speed this bill through the committee and get it to the floor for a vote as soon as possible.

Sharon Tryon
Self
Waxahachie, TX

I strongly support HB 900 because it Prohibits harmful, sexually explicit materials in public schools!.

Thank you,

Sharon Tryon

Janelle Viscomi
self, residential mortgage originator
Houston, TX

I strongly support HB 900 because it prohibits harmful, sexually explicit books and materials in our public schools. I will pull my children from public schools if these things keep being allowed to happen to our children.

Bill Maund
Self. Consulting
Dallas, TX

Please support HB 900

Steve Judkins

self

Yantis, TX

Please vote yes on this bill to REMOVE sexually explicit books from our school libraries and not allow any further types of books to be purchased also to make this mandatory and effective immediately.

Janet Judkins

self

Yantis, TX

Please vote yes on HB 900 to remove all sexually explicit books from our school libraries and to not allow any further types of books to be purchased. Please make this mandatory and effective immediately. The sake of our children is at stake. Please be the adult in the room to help begin the end of the crazy that is trying to take over our schools!

Amy Anderson

Self

Round Rock, TX

Is this really more important than securing teachers for next year?

I am a high school math teacher for 25 years. I have twins in their 2nd year at UT Austin. I have to turn in my 60 day notice to move out of my apartment by the end of March. If I am not making more money, I cannot afford my apartment or my job. Well, I need a place to live. I will have to find a different career.

Please make teachers a priority and let us know you care a little about us. If HB1548 is not at top priority of Public Education Committee, then teachers are leaving. I hear it everyday!

SARAH BISHOP

Self

Orange, TX

Please vote Yes on this bill to Remove Sexual explicit books from school libraries; do not allow any further types of these books to be purchased and to do this immediately

Sandra Slater

Self

Fredericksburg, TX

"I strongly support HB 900 because it prohibits harmful, sexually explicit materials in public schools."

Sheila Williams

Self/retired

Hull, TX

This bill is a good start on cleaning up the gutter our children are subjected too. We have become too complacent in trusting those who have control over what material our kids can access & the curriculum agenda being pushed. We used to put laws in place to protect our most vulnerable and Texas should always lead the way with strong legislation & enforcement. Thank you.

Carol Cutler

Self- Retired

McKinney, TX

As a grandmother to 3 boys, I find it appalling that schools would allow sexually explicitly material in libraries. Children should get information beyond basic sexual knowledge from parents or guardians, not from materials most would consider pornographic and very explicit. Young children are not prepared emotionally or mentally to process such material and I applaud Rep Patterson's bill for acknowledging this and providing a means to safeguard young minds. I appreciate the opportunity to comment and urge you to vote to pass this bill.

Penny Simmons

Self

Lorenzo, TX

I strongly support HB900. Even in conservative West Texas, our children are being targeted and groomed by sexual predators in our schools and libraries. Yes, I said predators as I can think of no better word to use when school and public libraries promote sexually explicit content and especially books depicting and celebrating a deviant view of sexuality to children and young people. Our children and young people deserve a safe place to learn. We will be held accountable. As a minister I counsel young adults frequently who struggle with anxiety and depression. It can usually be traced back to their being exposed to inappropriate sexual books or pictures at a very young age. Kids cannot handle explicit sexual content in print or digitally because it makes them vulnerable and often leads to experience. It's our job to protect them!

Dina Mensing

Self, public school librarian

Austin, TX

Respected Legislators, I am writing to you first as a parent; secondly as a certified, public school librarian; and thirdly as a tax-paying, fifth-generation (at least) Texan.

First of all, my two children will be entering high & middle school next year. My husband and I have done our best to build a relationship of trust with our kids and provide a safe environment. We hope they feel comfortable asking us anything. We also understand the importance of instilling values our family holds dear, including empathy and understanding for others unlike us, who've had different experiences. Books can often provide that window into another life, a way of understanding. The library was a safe place for me as a child, and helped me understand the world, more than my bubble in South Texas.

Secondly, as a certified librarian, I find this bill unnecessary and professionally insulting. I was an elementary classroom teacher for 22 years before becoming a certified librarian. All Texas school librarians must have taught in the classroom before seeking their master's in library science and becoming certified. We read, consult other library professionals, look at reviews, and are constantly reviewing our collections for needs, always taking into consideration our population. Just as Rudine Sims Bishop wrote about "Windows, Mirrors, and Sliding Glass Doors", our job is to provide books where our students can see themselves, others unlike them, and imagine places they might never see. We are highly trained and work hard to choose books that are age-appropriate, as well as keeping communication lines open with parents, so if they choose to limit what their OWN CHILD reads, we can accommodate that. I certainly wouldn't want another parent's limitations dictate what I deem okay for MY child.

As a taxpayer, I am frustrated time is being wasted on this kind of trash legislation. We are not Florida, so why are our legislators trying so hard to be like them? Books are not the problem; fear-mongering is. Do some real work on our energy infrastructure and funding PUBLIC schools properly.

Respectfully,

Dina Mensing

Holly Betenbough, Mrs.

Self

Lubbock, TX

I strongly support HB900 because it prohibits sexually explicit materials in the classroom. Our children should never be exposed to such materials, especially not in school or public libraries!

Sheri Riddle

Self

Lubbock, TX

I strongly support HB900 because it prohibits sexually explicit and harmful material from being placed in our public schools.

Pam Shelden

My family

Pampa, TX

Please vote for this bill requiring mandatory library standards in our schools.

Tamra Snell

Self - School Librarian

Pflugerville, TX

Dear Representatives,

I am Tamra Snell, a Texas school librarian, parent, and member of the Texas Library Association. HB 900 seeks to address some of the key issues being debated around the state: parental rights, collection development policies and procedures, and ensuring that content in school libraries is appropriate.

Please consider that any state-mandated policy requirements must not impede a district's ability to craft a collection development policy that meets the needs of every student within their district. Local control and oversight is determined by locally-elected school board officials. We must continue to ensure that locally-elected board members are able to do the work they have been elected to do by the people who reside in their district.

Books are already rated by reading level and age-appropriateness in professional review resources and are purchased from a wide variety of vendors outside of Texas. Therefore, multiple corporations outside of Texas will be required to provide ratings that determine what our students should and should not read.

School librarians are first and foremost professional educators. Our priority is to ensure that students are successful in their education. The books in a school library present multiple viewpoints and lived experiences, foster critical thinking skills, and reflect the unique make-up and interests of the student population.

As you consider HB 900, please ensure that school districts don't lose the local ability to build collections that inspire learning, support student achievement, and are tailored to the specific needs of the students and families we serve.

Thank you,
Tamra Snell

Thomas Schlueter, Dr

Prince of Peace House of Prayer and Texas Apostolic Prayer Network
Arlington, TX

I strongly support HB900 because it prohibits harmful, sexually explicit materials in public schools

Yvonne Pulido

Self

Houston, TX

I GREATLY DISAPPROVE of any type of sexually explicit material be sold, read, or given to any child. If this bill is passed, we will have opened the door to feed them to the wolves. I'm applaud that I am even having to write against this topic. This should be a given, that ABSOLUTELY NO SEXUALLY EXPLICIT MATERIAL should be anywhere on the school grounds. They can't go to war until they are 18 or drink legally until age 21, but we want to allow sexually explicit in the school for leisure. You all are degreed officials. You work for the people and you're in office to PROTECT the people. So, I'm asking you to do your job and PROTECT our children. If we don't protect them, who will. Warmest Regards, Yvonne

Jennie Birkholz, Mrs

Self

Round Rock, TX

I oppose HB 900 and urge that this bill does not go out of committee. As a parent, I see this as an overreach of government powers and do not want the government involved in the decisions I make for my children. Additionally I trust the trained school librarians to curate appropriate books for the public schools that my school attends. There are appropriate measures already in place to allow for my choice of books my kid selects. Do not allow HB 900 out of committee.

Kellie Hedger

Self

Weatherford, TX

I strongly support HB 900 because it prohibits harmful, sexually explicit materials in public schools.

Mary Smith, Ms

Concerned Women for America

Arlington, TX

Libraries and students need books that enrich and not pornography.

Lazaro Camarillo

self

Austin, TX

This bill is unnecessary and would put undue burden on librarians school districts. Parents already have the right to prohibit their own children from selecting certain kinds of books making this bill unnecessary. Adding large scale burdens to access would be damaging for literacy in schools.

Michelle Vaughn

Self / Public School Library/Media Specialist

Montgomery, TX

- * School librarians are first and foremost professional educators that work hard to ensure that students are successful in their education.
- * Parents are essential to students' success, and librarians encourage their engagement.
- * There is no one-size-fits-all library collection. The books in a school library present multiple viewpoints and lived experiences, foster critical thinking skills, and reflect the unique make-up and interests of the student population.
- * All school librarians follow their district's collection development policies which are approved by the locally elected school board. They apply their professional training and expertise, and use their knowledge of community needs in selecting materials that will develop strong readers.
- * Any state-mandated policy requirements must not impede a district's ability to craft a collection development policy that meets the needs of every student.
- * Books are already rated by reading level and age-appropriateness and are purchased from a wide variety of vendors.
- * As you consider HB 900, please ensure that school districts don't lose the local ability to build collections that inspire learning, support student achievement, and are tailored to the specific needs of the students.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Amy Rattleff
SELF
PLANO, TX

I strongly support HB900 because it prohibits harmful, sexually explicit materials in public schools. Although each school district has a policy regarding instructional materials, it's an arduous exercise to remove sexually explicit books from our minor children's school libraries. I was just forced to submit a FOIA in my local district to find out if a list of books had received a reconsideration request as all neighboring districts have already removed these titles. As a parent, I have been working on getting these sexually explicit titles removed since October 2021 and only a handful of these books are gone. My home district had a book portraying demons gang raping women in a graphic novel called Goblin Slayer. The book had an MA (mature audience 18+) warning label on the cover and yet any student was able to check out the book in the library. Since the percentage of students over 18 years old is tiny, why would a public school allow these types of books? HB 900 would prevent these types of books from getting and staying in our public schools. My district is not being proactive but yet relying on parents going through the lengthy process of submitting the reconsideration form and waiting for the committee to agree they are explicit. These districts who continue to allow these filthy explicit books need to be held accountable with some consequences for permitting minors to have access to sexually explicit books. I respectfully request you support HB 900.

john miknavich
garland t party
garland, TX

I am writing to support the passing of this common sense legislation to protect our children.

Susan Bautista
Self
Arlington, TX

"I strongly support HB900 because it prohibits harmful, sexually explicit materials in public schools"

Tracy Massey
Constituent
Grand Prairie, TX

Please support HB 900 for the benefit of our children.

Stacy Hays
self, consultant
Austin, TX

Regulating the books available in public schools is necessary. This is not book banning, because parents are still able to acquire these books for their children at public libraries or book stores. We would not think it is appropriate to have racist books in school public libraries, I do not understand how this is any different. Movies have age requirements, so that children cannot see content that is too sexually explicit for them, I do not understand why book content would be any different. Would it be appropriate for a teacher to take a student to a film that is Rated R? No. It is essential that we limit the access to these books from children in schools, especially outside of their parents' control.

Mary Chamberlain

self, sales

Houston, TX

Members of the House Education Committee, Parents and families need your support in regards to material in our school libraries. Schools have a responsibility to keep children safe from harmful material, yet time and again, parents find inappropriate, violent, sexually explicit material in our school libraries. Currently the burden to find and remove this material is on parents, most of whom only find this material after it's brought to their attention or their child brings home such a book. Sexually explicit, violent books have no place in a school. School libraries are not public libraries, they can be limited to any scope a school may choose.

It has been proven over and over again that there are groups who wish to have these books in our libraries, and they associate limiting books in school libraries to book banning. However, books can be purchased from bookstores, or they can be checked out at public libraries at any time. Protecting young children from this harmful material in schools is not banning books.

Here in my school district, Spring Branch ISD, our Board of Trustees has written a good policy to challenge a book under a reconsideration policy. In the short time this policy has been in place, books have been removed altogether, limited to certain age groups, or moved to restricted sections where parents must opt in for their kids to check out. However, there is a group of activists determined to put a stop to book challenges by creating chaos to the reconsideration process. They have challenged more than two dozen books that are completely harmless (example The Day the Crayons Quit, PB and J) so as to clog the system. The time it takes to move just one book through the process takes weeks or even months. So books that have been challenged for violence, or explicit sexual content are now in line behind these harmless books, and will not be heard for years. This example is why parents need your help. We need you to help protect our children.

My own children are voracious readers. They have always found books to be a place to learn about new places, and to broaden their horizon. Books can take you to fantastical places and spur a child's imagination. Books can help build a child's confidence, and allow them a safe harbor during a tough time. Our children deserve a strong foundation of reading. Our children also deserve a library free from indoctrination and sexual exploitation, a library free of violent and abhorrent material. Please help create a safe environment for our kids. Please support HB 900.

Georgina Castro

Church

Horizon City, TX

I am totally des agreement in books of sexuality being in schools trying to e doctínate our children in young age with books that shouldn't be in schools

Kathryn-Alizabeth Baker

Self

Overton, TX

I strongly support HB 900 because it prohibits harmful, sexually explicit materials in public schools. If city councils don't permit parents to read these books out loud in public then NO child in Texas (or America for that matter) should be reading sexually provocative books in private at their indoctrination center aka "public school."

Gale Ransom

Self

Garland, TX

I strongly support HB 900 because it prohibits harmful, sexually explicit materials in public schools. It is very important to me to protect my grandchildren's innocence.

Miles Keith Riddle

Self Retired

Lubbock, TX

I strongly support HB900 because it prohibits harmful, sexually explicit material in our public schools. I have three grandchildren attending Lubbock area schools and want to protect them as much as possible!

Cindi Wynia

Self Program Manager Amarillo Public Health

Amarillo, TX

Publishers already rate books according to age-appropriate reading level and professional librarians use such ratings to ensure their collections are meeting the needs of their student communities. Every school has a collection development policy approved by their district and librarians encourage parent engagement. A wide variety of vendors are essential to building a collection of materials to meet the diverse needs of each school. As you consider HB 900, please ensure that school districts don't lose the local ability to build collections that inspire learning, support student achievement, and are tailored to the specific needs of the students in their school.

Lisa Blacm

parents all.across Texas

Leander, TX

Please help stop the sexualizatuon of our children in schools. if a child can't even go to a rated r movie by themselves why can they pick up a NC17 boom from their public education library. doesn't make sense. the sexualization of children leads to the abuse of children.

Julie Roeder, Librarian / Media Specialist

Self - Librarian

Houston, TX

I'm writing to express my concern regarding HB 900. As a school librarian, I can attest to the early and ongoing professional training we receive in order to ensure our library collections contain only materials that enhance the instructional program and contribute to the growth of readers in our building. We have clear guidelines set into law at our district level that prohibit the inclusion of harmful or obscene material. The decisions about what that means for each community (school, district, town) belong to the readers, teachers, administrators, and parents of those readers. Our partnership with parents allows them to restrict any materials they don't want their child(ren) reading. There is no one-size-fits-all library collection. The books in a school library present multiple viewpoints and lived experiences, foster critical thinking skills, and reflect the unique make-up and interests of the student population.

As we develop our collections we are required to seek out positive reviews from agreed-upon reputable reviewers. If a book is in question, an appeal process seeks input and provides decision-making status to staff and parents alike.

As you consider HB 900, please ensure that school districts don't lose the local ability to build collections that inspire learning, support student achievement, and are tailored to the specific needs of the students.

Thank you for your time.

Julie Roeder

Gabby Arreola

Representative

El Paso, TX

I strongly support HB 900 because it prohibits harmful, sexually explicit materials in public schools!

Terri Hall, Legislative Liaison

We the People - Liberty in Action

Kerrville, TX

We absolutely support this vital bill to protect children from inappropriate books in our school libraries. We've been appalled to learn of the smut being peddled to our kids through school libraries. This common sense bill to set-up BASIC standards to protect kids from obscene and indecent material should have been done the moment a school library opened to students. This should be the priority of EVERY legislator. Quickly pass HB 900.

Jerry Rubli

Self

Spring, TX

As the grandfather of 4 children attending schools in the Klein ISD, i am disappointed that I keep hearing issues about vulgar & pornographic literature finding its way into the public school system. I am encouraging our legislators to pass HB 900 which will cause book sellers to correctly label the content of any book into our school library system.

Elizabeth Biar

Self

Houston, TX

I support HB 900. It helps allow parents to raise their children not a school administrator or librarian. Parents know best for their children. Parents may still provide these books for their children. It only requires permission.

Cheryl Warren

Children

Orange, TX

I am for THIS BILL - WE MUST PROTECT OUR CHILDREN .

For those that think it is not here.. I live in a small Rural County of 80k people. I and a few others have started researching into what is in our local schools. Frankly it made me cry.

This is what was in just 1 ELEMENTARY SCHOOL.

- 1) I Am Jazz Jessica Herthel transgender childrens book
- 2)And Tango Makes Three Justin Richardson, Peter Parnell, Henry Cole homosexuality, anti-family and anti religion
- 3)Olives Ocean Kevin Henkes foul language, sexually explicit
- 4)The Giver Lois Lowry violence, occult themes, sexually explicit, suicide, murder, euthanasia (10 +)
- 5)Nasreen's Secret School Jeanette Winter violence, father gets drug out of the house by soldiers, military depicted badly, parents killed
- 6)Captain Underpants Dav Pilkey misspelling, bad grammar, disdain for teachers, rules, learning. Potty humor, no consequences for bad behavior - 17 in series

7)My Mom's Having A Baby! Dori Hillestad Butler nudity, sex education, sexually explicit

This is what was found at a local HIGH SCHOOL

- 1)The Absolutely True Diary of a Part Time Indian Sherman Alexie masturbation, pornography, and boners
- 2)Speak Laurie Halse Anderson raped girl, drinking, body mutilation(her lips)
- 3)The Hate U Give Angie Thomas extreme foul language
- 4)This One Summer Mariko Tamaki, Jillian Tamaki vulgar language used, the sex, including language such as "blow job", description of oral sex, promiscuity involving children (she was pregnant 6 times before she was 15), references to children as "sluts" (young teen?)
- 5)Two Boys Kissing David Levithan Harry and Craig, former boyfriends and now best friends, must have their lips locked for over thirty-two hours
- 6)Eleanor and Park Rainbow Rowell foul language, sexuality
- 7)Carry On, Wayward Son, Anyway the Wind Blows(Trilogy) Rainbow Rowell excessive use of the F-word, homosexuality.
- 8)Looking For Alaska John Green Oral sex, drinking drugs, promiscuity.
- 9)Outrageously Alice Phyllis Reynolds Naylor sexual content, sensual experiences in a swimming pool" and what to do with whipped cream besides putting it on a dessert. (9-13 years)
- 10)Thirteen Reasons Why Jay Asher drugs, alcohol, smoking, sexually explicit (11+)
- 11)All Boys Aren't Blue George M. Johnson sexually explicit, pornography, homosexual 13 +
- 12)Nick and Charlie, Heartstopper series 4 books Alice Oseman- graphic description of sex between 2 boys, foul language.Netflix working on a series
- 13)Thirteen Reasons Why Jay Asher story about teen commits suicide
- 14)The Perks of Being a Wallflower Stephen Chbosky drugs/alcohol/smoking, homosexuality, offensive language, sexually explicit,
- 15)The Bluest Eye Toni Morrison graphic rape, pedophilia
- 16)Me and Earl and The Dying Girl Jesse Andrews masturbation, graphic sexual (12-18 years)
- 17)The Handmaids Tale Margaret Atwood sacri-religious, rape, violence
- 18)Hero Perry Moore protagonist masturbating to gay porn

AND 13 more I do not have room to put on this form..

Melissa Atterberry

self Librarian

Austin, TX

Censorship has a long history of being on the wrong side of history. School librarians must have a four year college degree, a master's degree, and at least two active certifications from the state of Texas. They are trained and qualified to make decisions about the books that are in Texas school libraries. Families have every right to decide what their children read, however the choice of what to include in a library should be left to trained professionals.

Liza Sharkey

Self

Keller, TX

I support this bill.

Kathryn Lysko

Self, digital marketing agency owner

Allen, TX

As a mother with a journalism degree, I am completely against banning books from school. Never in history has it been wise to prohibit literature. Books are how we learn about the world and ourselves. Please vote no to regulation of books in our public school libraries.

Savannah Grantham

self, student

Fort Worth, TX

No one who has tried to ban books was on the right side of history. Remember the children are our future and that we must be able to expose them to all the knowledge, experiences, and imagination of the world.

Bernadette Sánchez, Dr.

Self, audiologist

El Paso, TX

I strongly support HB900 because it prohibits harmful, sexually explicit materials in schools. As a mother of 3 school aged children, I feel that it is my right to educate my children in this matter according to our beliefs and values.

Phyllis Harding-Nichols

Self retired engineer

Mineola, TX

I strongly support HB900 because it prohibits harmful, sexually explicit materials in public schools

Sheri Stegent

N-A

Houston, TX

I strongly support HB900 because it prevents sexually explicit literature in schools.

Jennifer Miller

Self

Weatherford, TX

I strongly support HB 900 because it prohibits harmful, sexually explicit materials in public schools. Please support this bill and protect our children. Thank you.

Stacy Alexander
Self
Sherman, TX

I am strongly for HB 900 related to the regulation of books within our public school libraries. We need to put greater responsibility and regulations on the people who place material in front of our next generation. What children see and read not only affects their well-being in the present, but for many years in their future. Obscene or pornographic material viewed by minors is known not only to effect the minors, but could have ramifications on communities if the minors grow into sex addicts, which is estimated to be at least 6-8% of Americans.

Our education system should help parents in specific academic subjects, but ultimately, parents are primarily responsible for the education of their children. We need to have more transparency between parents and educators for the overall success of our next generation.

Lisa Hooper
self; Realtor
Waco, TX

As a concerned and loving Grandmother, I strongly support HB900 because it prohibits harmful, sexually explicit materials in public schools. Thank you for introducing this Bill!

wayne jankowski
Ellis County GOP
Waxahachie, TX

Why would you ever think it is ok to promote homosexuality on our school libraries? Pornography should not be in our school libraries EVER! Kids need to learn about basics like Math, History and English. Perversion should never be allowed in our schools or government!

Matthew Ortega
Self
Bryan, TX

Yes, please filter out graphic books from our schools. Parents and teens that wish to find such materials can do so on their own time and with their own funds.
Please make it easier for parents to find the literature available to their children. School libraries should post their catalog to the school websites every six weeks. Parents should receive an email when their student checks out any book from the library.
Thanks for your hard work!

Constance Ulery
self/retired
College Station, TX

I support HB 900 as common sense legislation to protect our children.

Ruth Potts
Self
Ft Worth, TX

I strongly support HB900 because it prohibits harmful, sexually explicit materials in public schools

Jessica Perez

Self

El Paso, TX

I strongly support HB900 because it prohibits harmful, sexually explicit materials in public schools" is all that's needed. Kids do not need to be exposed to pornography and sexual content. This is damaging to our kids and society.

Merri Michaels

Stop Sexualizing Texas Kids

Houston, TX

Support HB 900 and the work of Christian Bentley's Stop Sexualizing Texas Kids: <https://texasscorecard.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/rpt-priority-2023-stop-sexualizing-texas-kids.pdf>

JUDY Crowder

self

Gilmer, TX

March 20, 2023

COMMENTS FOR THE HEARING OF HB 900 March 21, 2023:

It is a sad commentary on the Texas Public Schools, School Boards and School Librarians that it is necessary for the Texas House to pass a bill to prevent Public Schools from allowing sexually explicit and pervasively vulgar materials in Texas Public Schools! Thank you for allowing a hearing on HB 900. I am a Precinct Chairman in Upshur County and believe my precinct is overwhelmingly in support of HB 900 creating mandatory library standards. It is clear the current RECOMMENDED standards are insufficient to protect Texas children from sexualization by Public School and classroom sanctioned library materials. There is no doubt our State was founded on the moral code of the Judeo Christian traditions. Vulgar and sexually explicit materials are a rebellion or sin against God. The State Preamble clearly states what our standards will be: "Humbly invoking the blessings of Almighty God, the people of the State of Texas, do ordain and establish this Constitution. "

Please vote for sending HB 900 forward.

Blessings in Liberty,

Judy Dodson Crowder

Galen Hilliard

Self/ a retired individual

Rockwall, TX

I very strongly believe that families sending children to public schools, families that pay taxes to support public schools should be able to have confidence in the quality and moral ethics of what is made available through our libraries. Nothing that can be considered sexually explicit by anyone should be allowed. Thus, I support HB 900. I speak for my family, my neighborhood, and my church.

Bonnie Lyons

Montgomery County Republican Party Legislative Committee

Montgomery, TX

We support the concept of legislation that will result in the removal of books from our school libraries with obscene content. However, I have concerns about the language in the bill that the Commission "shall adopt VOLUNTARY standards for school library services" and that schools boards "shall CONSIDER the standards". The question I am asking myself is whether this bill was intended to 'satisfy' constituents, as opposed to legislation that would have more teeth to deal with the problem. I would like to see that language changed or clarified to ensure that parents have the tools they need to protect their children from some of the pornographic content we are seeing in our childrens' library books.

Brenda Portalatin, Ms

Self

El Paso, TX

Apoyo firmemente la HB900 porque prohíbe materiales dañinos y socialmente explícitos en las escuelas públicas.

Kathie Chan

Self

Denton, TX

I strongly support HB900 because it prohibits harmful, sexually explicit materials in public schools.

Caren Foster, Mrs

"Self" - grandparent

Aledo, TX

We cannot over emphasize the importance and the imperative passage of HB 900 to protect our Texas children from the ready supply of sexually explicit books and materials and access into school libraries. There must be a standard of decency to hold our schools to and as a grandparent of school age children I am appalled at what is passed off as acceptable to have in school libraries. I have seen a number of these books myself and horrified at the influence they put upon these young minds we seek to nurture into good, decent and responsible citizens our our great state. I am so very supportive of all the aspects of this bill and hope to see it pass overwhelmingly. Sincerely , Caren Foster. I speak for my husband as well, James Foster

Tanya Crump

Texas voter

Lubbock, TX

I support the bill HB 900 it's time to protect our children in public schools from sexually explicit harmful materials. It's time to take back the innocence of our students and stop the perversion from abusing our children. Public school pornography is sexually abusing.

Nichole Waters

Self

Houston, TX

I agree that no books should have explicit graphic or explicit sexual content.

Tommy Hancock, Teacher

Self

Austin, TX

Please stop this bill. Our library staff members do a good job and are fully accountable with the current procedures in place.

Tommy Joaquin Hancock

Teacher

Valerie Davidson

Self

Weatherford, TX

As a free speech advocate I am against banning books, however pornographic and sexually explicit books do not belong in our public schools. These type books should only be available under parental supervision and not just openly available to children who may not be mature enough to process what they are seeing and reading. As we see daily in the news, there are bad faith actors who push a sexual narrative on children and I believe these books are an advantage to those who want to hurt our children. While parents should have the final say, I don't think we should expect the school administrators be in charge of deeming which parents have given approval and which parents haven't. Since policing who could check-out these books would be a nightmare, the only considerable option is to keep them out of the library completely.

Thank you Texas House for considering the safety of our children is more important than a sexually explicit ideology.

Regards

Valerie Davidson

Melinda Lanham

Librarian

Belton, TX

Dear Committee,

I am Melinda Lanham, a Texas school librarian and member of the Texas Library Association. I am contacting you to share my concerns about HB 900 which will be considered by the House Public Education Committee on Tuesday, March 21.

HB 900 seeks to address some of the key issues being debated around the state: parental rights, collection development policies and procedures, and ensuring that content in school libraries is appropriate.

School librarians are first and foremost professional educators. Our priority is to ensure that students are successful in their education.

Parents are essential to students' success, and librarians encourage their engagement. Parents have online access to the library catalog which is updated as books are added to the collection. Most Texas school districts, including Belton ISD, have a reconsideration policy that involves a committee of parents, teachers and administrators who review library books when there is a concern.

There is no one-size-fits-all library collection. The books in a school library present multiple viewpoints and lived experiences, foster critical thinking skills, and reflect the unique make-up and interests of the student population.

All school librarians follow their district's collection development policies which are approved by the locally elected school board. They apply their professional training and expertise and use their knowledge of community needs in selecting materials that will develop strong readers.

Any state-mandated policy requirements must not impede a district's ability to craft a collection development policy that meets the needs of every student.

Books are already rated by reading level and age-appropriateness and are purchased from a wide variety of vendors. Therefore, multiple corporations outside of Texas will be required to provide ratings that determine what our students should and should not read.

As you consider HB 900, please ensure that school districts don't lose the local ability to build collections that inspire learning, support student achievement, and are tailored to the specific needs of the students.

Melinda Lanham, MLS

Belton New tech High School Librarian

melinda.lanham@bisd.net

Donna Bullard

Constituent

Clifton, TX

I strongly support HB 900 because it prohibits harmful, sexually explicit materials in public schools.

Lorri Villarreal
Self, educator/homemaker
LUBBOCK, TX

I strongly support HB900 because it prohibits harmful, sexually explicit materials in public schools. Our children need to be protected from the mental, emotional, and physical harm caused by the normalization of the sexually explicit materials in the classroom of all places. Our children have the right to be children.
Our children MUST be protected!

Bob Murry
SELF
Austin, TX

I am very much against this bill's efforts to take away autonomy of local school districts and putting book selection into the hands of the state. This bill would also put the decision of whether a book is suitable or unsuitable into the hands of the state. Finally the requirement that every vendor "rate" all books is extreme overreach from the state of Texas.

Rebecca Rodriguez
self - information technology services
Austin, TX

Restricting or removing educational materials relating to human development is detrimental to Texas education. This is a threat to freedom of speech and freedom to attain information in the state of Texas and sets a dangerous precedent for any future regulations on information.

Vickie Bass
Grassroots America We The People
Brownsboro, TX

I strongly support HB 900 because it prohibits harmful, sexually explicit materials in public schools. Parents are the only ones to steward sexual information to their children

Rhonda Rogers Williams
Self - Human Resources Director
Granbury, TX

I fully support HB900 and ask you for your support of this bill also. Please rid our schools of filthy sexually explicit books. Please have school book vendors be held accountable to the books they sell to our schools and if found not acceptable be removed as a vendor.

Respectfully submitted,
Rhonda Rogers Williams

Susan Snyder
Self/ Homemaker
Waco, TX

I strongly support HB900 because it prohibits harmful, sexually explicit materials in public schools.

Brian Burgess, Rev.
Self Baptist Pastor
Waxahachie, TX

I strongly support HB 900 to prohibit harmful, sexually explicit materials in our public schools.

Susan Perez
Citizens for Education Reform and myself (retired teacher)
Lubbock, TX

I strongly SUPPORT HB 900. The education exception for library and classroom material was never intended to include the vulgar sex ed and other sexually explicit material that is now in public schools. Some of this material is donated. Please make sure your bill addresses donated materials.

This bill must prohibit all harmful, sexually explicit materials that are age inappropriate for any age student in K-12 schools or public libraries.

Thank you for addressing this problem by creating mandatory library and classroom standards relating to collections of library books and other educational material in Texas public schools by prohibiting, acquiring, and distributing materials considered sexually explicit, vulgar, and age inappropriate for k-12 students.

Alan Higginbotham
Self
Reklaw, TX

I urge you to support H 900. We need to protect our children from these sexually charged books. Pornography can be very addictive to some and exposing kids, especially boys may lead to a lifelong struggle fighting the addiction. Serial killer Ted Bundy credits pornography for as a driving force in his actions. Bundy documented his early exposure to hard-core pornography, saying that the material had a "crystallizing effect" on his violent tendencies and his eventual acting out of the fantasies he had seen depicted for so long. Bundy referred to hard-core pornography as the fuel for his fantasies. Please support HB 900 and other legislation to protect our kids.

Elizabeth Robbins, Mrs
Self retired
Weston Lakes, TX

I Strongly support HB 900 to protect Texas children from harmful and inappropriate sexually explicit materials and teachings.

Pamela Littlepage, Mrs
Self
Shady Shores, TX

I have two grandsons that I am paying to send to Christian school to keep them out of public schools. They are still exposed to friends who go to public schools. I have been monitoring what is going on in other states with these obscene public library books and indoctrination by librarians and teachers. I just saw a video of an eleven year old reading a book advised by the librarian called Nikki and Charlie about 2 young boys (I think they were 10) having sex. The father of the eleven year old boy showed pictures from a book in the high school library called Gender Queer. The pictures are completely pornographic. The videos are from 1776 PAC. You can look them up yourself. Public schools are grooming our children. I do not want it to happen in Texas. Please stop it now.

Sofia Roman
Self
Laredo, TX

I support the implementation of this Bill.

Laurie Bruns
Self, Librarian
Lubbock, TX

School librarians are professional educators. We are first and foremost teachers - with Texas certifications and extensive knowledge of the classroom and the students we serve. We teach in a different capacity than a classroom teacher, now. We serve the entire school, rather than one grade and content level. We serve teachers and administrators as well as students, and we provide materials that will enhance their instruction. We provide books that foster creativity and critical thinking, but also provide books that are mirrors and windows for our students: mirrors where they can see themselves - kids with similar upbringing and life experiences - and windows where they can learn about people that are different from themselves. We provide books that meet the ever-changing landscape of our students. We meet their needs, and we are professionally trained to do this.

As a librarian, I have a Master in Library Science, and I took no fewer than 12 hours of graduate classes that prepared me in selecting books for my libraries. Not to mention the on-going education I have received through professional learning.

As you think about this bill, please take into account the education, expertise, and experience of the professionals that are librarians.

Sonia Flores-Roman
self
Laredo, TX

I support the implementation of this Bill.

Joanne Shofner
Myself
Nacogdoches, TX

I support the prohibition of "sexually explicit materials" in public school and charter school libraries.

jorja merrick
Retired
Canton, TX

Surely you representatives have the decency to ALL believe the necessity to vote for this bill!

Dorcas Hand

Students Need Libraries in HISD

HOUSTON, TX

I am a retired Texas school librarian and member of the Texas Library Association. I am contacting you to share my concerns about HB 900 which will be considered by the House Public Education Committee on Tuesday, March 21.

HB 900 seeks to address some of the key issues being debated around the state: parental rights, collection development policies and procedures, and ensuring that content in school libraries is appropriate.

School librarians are first and foremost professional educators. Our priority is to ensure that students are successful in their education.

Parents are essential to students' success, and librarians encourage their engagement. When I worked with students, I always also worked with their parents to be sure that every student got what they needed while other students also got the best resources for their differentiated needs. This is how strong educational practice works, and I was a certified and experienced teacher with additional training as a school librarian.

There is no one-size-fits-all library collection. The books in a school library present multiple viewpoints and lived experiences, foster critical thinking skills, and reflect the unique make-up and interests of the student population.

All school librarians follow their district's collection development policies which are approved by the locally elected school board. They apply their professional training and expertise, and use their knowledge of community needs in selecting materials that will develop strong readers.

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As you consider HB 900, please ensure that school districts don't lose the local ability to build collections that inspire learning, support student achievement, and are tailored to the specific needs of the students.

Monica Brown, Mrs.

self, self employed

Granbury, TX

Please help us get educationally valid books back into student libraries. Please do not allow sexualization of minors through public education. Please do not allow students to have books on campus at all that would violate any parents or other students. Please develop a safety zone for students so they can learn from educationally valid resources.

Melva Fincher

Self

Sherman, TX

I strongly support HB900 because it prohibits harmful, sexually explicit materials in public schools.

Amanda Qualls

self, school librarian

Denton, TX

I support Texas school librarians who are highly trained professional educators that select books based on local policies, approved by our school board. I trust school librarians, not out-of-state vendors, to determine if content in books is appropriate. And parents, not the state, are responsible for determining what their children read.

Douglas Charles
Prosper Citizen Group
Prosper, TX

Absolutely support this first step to ensure our school libraries are free of inappropriate materials.

Raquel Donahue, Ms.
self
Houston, TX

I support Texas school librarians who are highly trained professional educators that select books based on local policies, approved by our school board. I trust school librarians, not out-of-state vendors, to determine if content in books is appropriate. And parents, not the state, are responsible for determining what their own children read. Neither corporate interests or other parents have the right to determine what every child reads!

Carol Bertsch
self - lawyer
San Antonio, TX

I am a concerned citizen. I support Texas school librarians who are highly trained professional educators that select books based on local policies, approved by our school board. I trust school librarians, not out-of-state vendors, to determine if content in books is appropriate. And parents, not the state, are responsible for determining what their children read. Please pay attention to the serious problems our state faces, like the electric grid, and let librarians do their job.

Anna Lane
Self
Longview, TX

I support Texas school librarians who are highly trained professional educators that select books based on local policies, approved by our school board. I trust school librarians, not out-of-state vendors, to determine if content in books is appropriate. Parents, not the state, are responsible for determining what their children read.

Douglas Charles
Self
Prosper, TX

Absolutely support this first step to ensure inappropriate materials are not in our school libraries.

Angela Schreiber, Dr
Self
Leander, TX

I support Texas school librarians who are highly trained professional educators that select books based on local policies, approved by our school board. I trust school librarians, not out-of-state vendors, to determine if content in books is appropriate. And parents, not the state, are responsible for determining what their children read.

Charice Adams
self
Temple, TX

I support Texas school librarians who are highly trained professional educators that select books based on local policies, approved by our school board. I trust school librarians, not out-of-state vendors, to determine if content in books is appropriate. And parents, not the state, are responsible for determining what their children read.

Fred Shelton, Mr

Self

Killeen, TX

I don't believe it is the states obligation to allow books that are not age-appropriate and are objectionable in moral character that is defined by the rights of the parents decision not the state or any other governmental organization, or special interest group. Please vote against anything that would threaten our children.

Lori Davis

Self - school librarian

Gladewater, TX

I support Texas school librarians who are highly trained professional educators that select books based on local policies, approved by our school board. I trust school librarians, not out-of-state vendors, to determine if content in books is appropriate. And parents, not the state, are responsible for determining what their children read.

Susan Barker

Self

Arlington, TX

I support Texas school librarians who are highly trained professional educators that select books based on local policies, approved by our school board. I trust school librarians, Not out-of-state vendors, to determine if content in books is appropriate. And parents, Not the state, are responsible for determining what their children read. The state has no right to take this responsibility away from school librarians in an attempt to score political points..

Amanda Pepping

-- please select a prefix --

Huntsville, TX

I support Texas school librarians who are highly trained professional educators that select books based on local policies, approved by our school board.

I trust school librarians, not out-of-state vendors, to determine if content in books is appropriate. And parents, not the state, are responsible for determining what their children read.

This wasteful spending that duplicates the work of our professional educators and librarians should be spent on something that will help Texas instead.

Sara Ranzau, Dr.

Texas Association for Literacy Education

Boerne, TX

Each public school district has worked to create their own processes for purchasing, culling, and including books in their public libraries. Librarians hold master's degrees in library science and know their populations well. They, and their districts, should be trusted to purchase appropriate materials for their campus libraries. They should not have to rely on the legislature to tell them what is appropriate for their populations. If librarians and districts are told what they can and cannot purchase, then they cannot make sure their students see themselves in the books available to them in the school library.

Caroline Helms

self, Library Director

Gonzales, TX

I support Texas school librarians who are highly trained professional educators that select books based on local policies, approved by our school board. I trust school librarians, not out-of-state vendors, to determine if content in books is appropriate. And parents, not the state, are responsible for determining what their children read.

Maggie Bootman

Self

Alpine, TX

I support Texas school librarians who are highly trained professional educators that select books based on local policies, approved by the local school board. I trust school librarians, not out-of-state vendors or state government, to determine if content in books is appropriate. Parents, not the state, are responsible for determining what their children read.

Mary N. Newby, Mrs.

Self. - housewife

Belton, TX

I strongly support HB900. Sexually explicit books and material has NO place in any public school through and including 12th grade. Texas citizens feel very strongly about this issue because it can set the course for students that would be detrimental.

Babette Fraser Hale

Self writer

Round Top, TX

I am a grandparent of two school age children. I support Texas school librarians who are highly trained professional educators that select books based on local policies, approved by our school board. I trust school librarians, not out-of-state vendors, to determine if content in books is appropriate. And parents, not the state, are responsible for determining what their children read. I oppose this bill and the thinking behind it.

Jill Wilson

self - stay at home wife/mother

Manvel, TX

I support Texas school librarians who are highly trained professional educators that are ultimately subject to review by local school administrators and our school board. I trust school librarians, not out-of-state vendors, to determine if content in books is appropriate. Parents are responsible for what their own children read. They should be actively involved in managing their own children - not all children in the district. And the government should certainly not be the ones making this decision. I feel like this is a violation of the first amendment in terms of free expression. Words are speech, and making laws determining what other people read is not your place.

Patricia Newton

Texas Voter, Parents Against Porn in Our Schools

Alvin, TX

I am in Support of HB 900 - which relates to the regulation of "sexually explicit material" sold to, or included in, public school libraries. I am very animatedly sexually explicit material in our school libraries and in our school class rooms. I am opposed to sex education that promotes alternate life styles in any form. Sex education should be kept to teaching how our bodies work, for health reasons. Reproduction and disease prevention should be taught in classes that segregate males and females into separate groups, preferably taught by medical persons if not in persons via video conference. This teaching should NOT push any agenda, right or left but simply present the facts. The further education of students should be left to occur in their homes by their parents.

Kenneth Evans

self, educator

Denton, TX

I support Texas school librarians who are highly trained professional educators that select books based on local policies, approved by our school board. I trust school librarians, not out-of-state vendors, to determine if content in books is appropriate. And parents, not the state, are responsible for determining what their children read. Remember when Conservatism meant local governance, and trusting families to regulate their own affairs? Let parents discuss books with librarians, teachers, and their children -- having the State roll in with big corporate vendors to regulate our local libraries is dangerously reactive and not at all in line with principled Conservatism. HB 900 is not the Texan way.

Brent Cooper, Taxpayer

self and family

Lake Jackson, TX

I support Texas school librarians who are highly trained professional educators that select books based on local policies. I trust school librarians.

Katie Thonen

self

San Antonio, TX

As an academic librarian and parent I support Texas school librarians who are highly trained professional educators to select books based on local policies, approved by our school boards. I trust those librarians over vendors to determine appropriateness of content for their specific needs. Parents, not the state, are responsible for determining what their children read and this should not be regulated as it decreases independent thought and undermines the research process where people seek information to answer questions.

Julia Gaffney

self, RN

San Antonio, TX

I support Texas school librarians who are highly trained professional educators that select books based on local policies, approved by our school board. I trust school librarians, not out-of-state vendors, to determine if content in books is appropriate. And parents, not the state, are responsible for determining what their children read.

Jennifer Eckert

Texans for the Right to Read

San Antonio, TX

This bill is Orwellian in its attempt to insert state government in the choices people make when it comes to reading materials. It is politically motivated and designed only to stir anger and sow division. I support Texas school librarians who are highly trained professional educators that select books based on local policies, approved by our school board. I trust school librarians, not out-of-state vendors, to determine if content in books is appropriate. And parents, not the state, are responsible for determining what their children read.

Barbara Laudeneimer

Self

Austin, TX

I am a grandmother to 8 who all attend public schools. Maplewood Elementary Ridgetop Elementary Brentwood Elementary and Kealing Middle School. I oppose this bill as I trust the librarians at each of these schools who are trained and professionals in their schools. I do not want the government overreaching and telling schools what books are allowed. It is the parents decision to choose what their children read, NOT the state legislature! What is happening in Texas is total censorship and I thought we supported educators, librarians, and parents. This bill goes against all of them. Barbara Laudeneimer

Ida Gonzalez-Garza

self

Orange Grove, TX

I support Texas school librarians who are highly trained professional educators that select books based on local policies, approved by our school board. I trust school librarians, not out-of-state vendors, to determine if content in books is appropriate. And parents, not the state, are responsible for determining what their children read. Please stop trying to regulate the books and abide by the American Library Association's Freedom to read by ALL.

Adriana White

self - librarian

San Antonio, TX

I support Texas school librarians who are highly trained professional educators that select books based on local policies, approved by our school board. I trust school librarians, not out-of-state vendors, to determine if content in books is appropriate for our unique school communities. And parents, not the state, are responsible for determining what their children read. Parents may decide that they don't want their own child to read a specific book, but they cannot force every other child in that school to abide by their decision. Parents have the right to decide for themselves what's right for their child, and the majority of parents are against rating and restricting library books. Young people today are more likely to see inappropriate content online, and on social media, than in library books. Librarians do a lot of fantastic work to share amazing books with students, and we should support their efforts to support literacy in our schools. Certified school librarians already follow a specific selection process when ordering new books for their collections, and they should be treated like the professionals that they are. Our kids deserve to see the diversity of the world around them.

Shelley Livaudais

self / former educator

Austin, TX

I'm a former educator with a son who graduated from an excellent public school in Texas. I currently have several nieces in D/FW area public schools. I'm writing in opposition to HB 900. I support Texas school librarians who are highly trained professional educators that select books based on local policies, approved by our school board. I trust school librarians, not out-of-state vendors, to determine if content in books is appropriate. And parents, not the state, are responsible for determining what their children read.

Marissa Montgomery

self, Upper Elementary Librarian

Dallas, TX

I am a private school librarian in Dallas. I strongly support all Texas school librarians who are highly trained professional educators that select books based on local policies, approved by our school board. I trust school librarians, not out-of-state vendors, to determine if content in books is appropriate. And parents, not the state, are responsible for determining what their children read.

Kristen Chapman

Self - Parent

Watauga, TX

I emphatically support Texas school librarians who are highly trained professional educators that select books based on local policies, approved by our school board. I trust school librarians, not out-of-state vendors, to determine if content in books is appropriate. And parents, not the state, are responsible for determining what their children read.

Book banning and censorship do not have a place in Texas.

Anna Lindsey

Self

The Hills, TX

As a parent and as a writer, I support Texas school librarians who are highly trained professional educators that select books based on local policies, approved by our school board. I trust school librarians, not out-of-state vendors, to determine if content in books is appropriate. And parents, not the state, are responsible for determining what their children read. Let parents decide what their kids read!

Holly Liechty

Self

Houston, TX

I support Texas school librarians who are highly trained professional educators that select books based on local policies. I trust school librarians, not out-of-state vendors, to determine if content in books is appropriate. And parents, not the state, are responsible for determining what their children read.

Claire Zadow

individual

Waller, TX

I strongly support HB900 as it prohibits harmful, sexually explicit materials in public schools.

Rhonda Ward

Self, Real Estate Appraiser

Nacogdoches, TX

I have read excerpts from many of these books. There is no educational basis for any of these books! They are smut, filth, pornography and must be removed from public schools.

Anne Harding

Self

Dallas, TX

STOP TRYING TO BAN BOOKS!

It is not the role of the State to determine appropriate reading materials. I trust our highly trained school librarians and the parents of school-age children to guide students to appropriate reading materials.

Blocking kids from knowledge leads only to bigotry and dissent. I know; I grew up in a very rural part of Texas with very sub-par education. Community members were —and are — close minded simply because they've not been exposed to other perspectives. This Bill perpetuates that blindness.

Lynn Williams

Self/grandparent

Alvin, TX

I support Texas school librarians who are highly trained professional educators that select books based on local policies, approved by our school board. I trust school librarians, not out-of-state vendors, to determine if content in books is appropriate. And parents, not the state, are responsible for determining what their children read.

Amanda Rahlf

Self

Frisco, TX

I support Texas school librarians who are highly trained professional educators that select books based on local policies, approved by our school board. I trust school librarians, not out-of-state vendors, to determine if content in books is appropriate. And parents, not the state, are responsible for determining what their children read.

Katie Pierce Farrier

Self

76137, TX

: I support Texas school librarians who are highly trained professional educators that select books based on local policies, approved by our school board. I trust school librarians, not out-of-state vendors, to determine if content in books is appropriate. School librarians know their students better than any vendors. And parents, not the state, are responsible for determining what their children read. I have stepchildren and family members in public school and I trust those librarians to select suitable, relevant, appropriate books.

Glorirma Parrilla

Self

El Paso, TX

Apoyo firmemente la la HB900 porque prohíbe materiales dañinos y secularmente explícitos en las escuelas públicas.

Santina Canavan

self, Library Technician

Kingwood, TX

I am the parent of a student in Texas public schools. I support Texas school librarians who are highly trained professional educators that select books based on local policies, approved by our school board. I trust school librarians, not out-of-state vendors, to determine if content in books is appropriate. And parents, not the state, are responsible for determining what their children read.

Tara Bowman, Mrs.

myself, a school librarian and parent of children in public schools

Austin, TX

Book ratings are not necessary for school libraries because librarians are trained to build collections that reflect their student population and expand their understanding of the world. Many secondary libraries, mine included, add a YA sticker for books that are explicitly Young Adult, and we talk to students about the differences between middle grade and YA books so that they can make choices that are right for them. Book ratings will be too arbitrary and will add a layer to collection development that will add time and expense to the students the library serves.

Elizabeth Hoff

Self- Librarian

Bulverde, TX

As a parent of four children in Texas public schools and as a Texas public school librarian, I support Texas school librarians who are highly trained professional educators and that select books based on local policies, approved by school boards. I trust school librarians, not out-of-state vendors, to determine if content in books is appropriate. Furthermore, parents, not the state, are responsible for determining what their children read. This proposal is an overreach of government and undermines my role as a parent to determine what is appropriate for my children, replacing it with an arbitrary rating imposed by vendors who are not nearly as well versed in collection development, material selection, and understanding of content as Texas librarians.

Cameron Samuels

self - student

Katy, TX

Book bans target our most vulnerable identities of our social humanity, and they attempt to erase our identities and bar us from coming to terms with them. Books can offer a lifeline for young people to navigate their traumas, to navigate their struggles with themselves and with the world. And when certain people attempt to remove these stories and bar students from accessing them in their schools — an educational institution dedicated to supporting their well being — then it could be a matter of life or death.

Criticism is an influential part in examining literature, and with this recent wave of book banning, it has been extremely politicized. It's no longer examining literature from a humanities' perspective and therefore has simply become a way to fearmonger, to take advantage of voters, and gain political power. Libraries create space to continue critiquing and analyzing literature — a safe space to form individual opinions. To be critical thinkers and quality contributors to society, students need access to a wide variety of perspectives and ideas that challenge the status quo or there will be no development and progress.

Before graduating high school last year, I organized banned book distributions with my peers in Katy ISD. We distributed hundreds of banned books on topics of race and sexuality – narratives of truth, trauma, and reality. These "filthy books" tell invaluable stories for navigating shared experiences. These "filthy books" challenge white supremacy and heteronormativity, and as students see themselves reflected in the literature of their schools, these "filthy books" save lives as a resource to the most vulnerable.

Students are the primary stakeholders in our education. I repeat: Students are the primary stakeholders in our education. Adults should not be making decisions about us when we are not at the table. Not about us without us. Katy ISD canceled author visits and led the wave of book banning while policy-makers left students out of decisions that were most directly affecting us.

There are issues besides book banning that our school district should have been focused on. Addressing bullying, mental health, disability rights, and educational equity are clear issues affecting students, and if only you consulted us first in policymaking, we could be hearing a bill that protects mental health resources on school internet – resources that my district banned merely because they pertained to "Alternative Sexual Lifestyles (GLBT)."

As students need comfort and care as individuals in a compassionate community, please reject this rhetoric that upholds the unjust status quo and ultimately harms students. As a student who wholeheartedly wants the best for Texas and our youth, please reject HB 900.

Hailey Sinclair

self

Fort Worth, TX

I support Texas school librarians who are highly trained professional educators that select books based on local policies, approved by our school board. I trust school librarians, not out-of-state vendors, to determine if content in books is appropriate. And parents, not the state, are responsible for determining what their children read.

Renee Pearson

Moms for Liberty

Fredericksburg, TX

In support to STOP sexualization of Texas children

Emily Freeman

self

Austin, TX

I am writing in support of our wonderful public school librarians to continue to lead in their respective positions. The librarians who are in our schools every day are the best people to make decisions as the content in their schools library based on the students who attend the school. I don't think that our students and schools will be served well if these decisions are made by a governing body who are not in the schools every day. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Katherine Harrington
self, marketing and communications
Austin, TX

Our librarians are qualified to decide which books go in our libraries and there are already processes in place for parents to opt their children out of checking out books they deem offensive. Please say no to HB 900. Thank you.

Georgia Kimmel
self retired
Houston, TX

As a volunteer in a local school library, I have seen how the school librarian work to engage children in appropriate reading materials. Our Texas school librarians are highly educated, trained professional educators. They select books based on local policies and approved by our school boards. They should be trusted to choose books based on content for children they are teaching. Vendors who are not local and are outside of our state should not be choosing or determining appropriate content for our schools. Our librarians should not be restricted by vendors in book selections. Ultimately parents should guide and determine what their children read. That places librarians and parents making book choices at the local and personal level.

Irma Deutsch
Self
Laredo, TX

I strongly support this bill

Caren Goldsmith
Grandparent of Texas Public School student
Washington, TX

I trust Texas school librarians to use their knowledge and skills to select appropriate books for their students. Parents should monitor and guide their own child's selections as they deem appropriate. Government should not be involved.

Richard Heizer
Self
Weatherford, TX

I strongly support HB 900 because it prohibits harmful, sexually explicit materials in public schools. Too many Texas Public Schools, unfortunately, are becoming centers for indoctrination of children, rather than nurturing the child in their basic education- reading, writing, & arithmetic! Sexually oriented books, materials, or classes are not at all appropriate in our public education curricula.

Karyn Lewis
self, teacher librarian
Katy, TX

I support Texas school librarians who are highly trained professional educators that select books based on local policies, approved by our school board. I trust school librarians, not out-of-state vendors, to determine if content in books is appropriate. And parents, not the state, are responsible for determining what their children read.

Jose Banda
Self / retired
Houston, TX

I support Texas school librarians who are highly trained professional educators that select books based on local policies, approved by our school board. I trust school librarians, not out-of-state vendors, to determine if content in books is appropriate. And parents, not the state, are responsible for determining what their children read.

Laura BAROUSSE
Self, concerned citizen
Shavano Park, TX

I support Texas school librarians who are highly trained professional educators that select books based on local policies, approved by our school board. I trust school librarians, not out-of-state vendors, to determine if content in books is appropriate. And parents, not the state, are responsible for determining what their children read.

Claudia Ullrich
Self, Public School Parent
Austin, TX

Dear Members of the Committee,

I am writing to urge you to reject HB 900, a bill that seeks to limit access to books in school libraries. As an advocate for free speech and education, I believe that this bill is not only unnecessary but also poses a significant threat to the intellectual freedom of students.

This bill attempts to restrict access to books in school libraries by prohibiting acquisition, limiting access, and defining "obscenity" in an overly broad manner. It is essential to understand that books play a crucial role in shaping the intellectual and moral development of students. By limiting access to books, we are depriving students of the opportunity to learn, grow, and expand their minds.

Moreover, this bill puts the burden of determining what books constitute as "sexually explicit" and "sexually relevant" on the shoulders of publishers, allowing for the possibility of books being deemed "obscene" without due consideration of their educational value. This is a dangerous precedent that undermines the authority of educators and librarians in selecting materials that are appropriate for their students.

Additionally, this bill attempts to override First Amendment protections by compelling schools to adopt the view that "obscenity is unprotected" by the First Amendment. This is a gross misinterpretation of the First Amendment, which protects the right of individuals to access information and ideas, even those that may be considered controversial or offensive.

In conclusion, I urge you to reject HB 900 and protect the intellectual freedom of students. We must uphold the fundamental principles of free speech and education and ensure that our students have access to a diverse range of materials that enable them to develop critical thinking skills, empathy, and understanding.

Thank you for your consideration.

Elizabeth Gross
Self, educator.
Houston, TX

Texas school librarians are highly trained professional educators. They adhere to local policies in their book selection, and approved by our school board. I trust local school librarians, not out-of-state vendors, to determine if content in books is appropriate. And parents, not the state, are responsible for determining what their children read. Texans are known to be fierce defenders of liberty. Keep this tradition alive by allowing local educators and not the state or other far-removed entities to select materials for our schools.

Melanie Sumrow
Self, Lawyer, Author and Concerned Citizen
Dallas, TX

Freedom of speech is at the basis of our democracy, and book bans jeopardize that freedom. I support Texas school librarians who are highly trained professional educators that select books based on local policies approved by our school board. I trust school librarians, not out-of-state vendors to determine if content in books is appropriate. And parents, not the state, are responsible for determining what their children read.

Anita Savage

Self

Denton, TX

This is unconstitutional!!! This would violate first amendment rights that allow the freedom to read. By placing ratings on books this will lead to censorship. It is the parents decision what a child reads NOT THE GOVERNMENT! Parents make the decisions for their children, when the govt decides that takes rights from both child and parent!!

Katrina Dobbs

Self

Round Rock, TX

I support Texas school librarians who are highly trained professional educators that select books based on local policies, approved by our school board. I trust school librarians, not out-of-state vendors, to determine if content in books is appropriate. And parents, not the state, are responsible for determining what their children read

Martina Castelan, QMHP

Self

Llano, TX

I support Texas school librarians who are highly trained professional educators that select books based on local policies, approved by our school board. I trust school librarians, not out-of-state vendors, to determine if content in books is appropriate. And parents, not the state, are responsible for determining what their children read.

Sarah Martinez

self

Weatherford, TX

Please support HB900. Public Schools are guardians of the next generation. There is plenty of time for young people to grow up to discover the many sexual possibilities in the world. They do not need explicit sexual training as children. This is a grooming technique for predators!

Thank you for protecting our children,

Sarah Martinez

Weldon Wilkinson

Self

Carthage, TX

Please support the bill to STOP sexualizing Texas children.

Jennifer Harris

Self, a parent of a public school student

Austin, TX

Members of the Committee:

I am a graduate of Texas public schools and the parent of a public school student. I'm also a lifelong Republican, and I mention this fact because the party I grew up in and worked in used to value public education, embraced local control, and supported limited government. House Bill 900 stands in opposition to those values.

Books, literacy, libraries, and learning shouldn't be a partisan issue, nor should we legislate based on fear and misinformation.

I support Texas school librarians who are highly trained professional educators that select books based on local policies, approved by our school board. I trust school librarians, not out-of-state vendors, to determine if the content in books is appropriate. And parents, not the state, are responsible for determining what their children read. Today's system ensures trained professionals -- librarians -- choose what's on their shelves. And, today, parents are already empowered to guide and oversee what their children read or don't read, whether that's in a library at school, a public library, a book store, or the shelves of their own family home. I ask you to reject HB 900 as a gross overextension of the government that's simply not necessary.

James Bridges

self- retired school psychologist

Fate, TX

As a retired school psychologist, parent and grandparent, I trust school librarians who are highly trained professional educators to make book selections for our public schools' libraries. They are best able to determine the appropriateness of the books for their students and community. I believe the proposed rating system in this bill does not make sense and that it will help no one. Ultimately, parents are responsible for what their children read.

Gay Patrick

Self

Richardson, TX

As a professional librarian and library director who has represented many school librarians in the 2nd largest district in the state in a career of over fifty years, I support Texas school librarians who are highly trained professional educators that select books based on local policies, approved by the local school boards. I trust professionally trained school librarians, not out-of-state vendors who have vested interests in what they vet for the school children of Texas, to determine if content in books is appropriate and represents the reading needs and wants of their particular students. And parents and guardians, not the state, are responsible for determining what their children read. This bill is verging on state control and not local control, not considering the varied needs of the local communities. Local boards should have their selection policy spelled out in the board policy.

Laurie Speed

Walnut Creek Elementary

Austin, TX

Please do not vote to regulate books sold to public school libraries. I have carefully selected material that is appropriate for my students' ages for over 25 years using established guidelines provided by my district. I appeal to your sense of equanimity for all students to have the choice to freely choose a book to read. The joy of reading should not be limited by strict codes that extinguish exploration. Reading is life!

Caryn Moore

Self

Waxahachie, TX

I support this bill! The Republican Party of Texas strongly supports HB 900, and it is a top priority of the Legislative Priorities Subcommittee: Stop Sexualizing Texas Kids to see this legislation become law.

David Edmonds
The citizens of Texas
Cleburne, TX

I'm against this bill. Texas public schools are independent and have enough wisdom and discernment to know if a book is appropriate or not for students. It would be more beneficial for the citizens you serve if bills were being passed for infrastructure such as our failing electric power grid. This sort of legislation is policing morality, not serving the people. A party which speaks of freedom, but continuously passes laws to restrict it is revealing its true nature. Vote no on this. Write bills that help citizens financially. Work on infrastructure to make Texas stronger. Write bills that increase the economy and give people enough income to survive.

Caitlin Solano
Self
Katy, TX

These books are totally unacceptable. Why do you find it necessary to corrupt our youth?

Heather Olson Beal, Dr.
self - education professor
Nacogdoches, TX

You cannot take yourselves seriously, as members of the Texas Public Education Committee, if you move forward--in any way--on HB 900. This is a ridiculous and unnecessary law and an absurd legislative overreach. We do not need businesses from outside of our state rating books. We need to get out of the way and allow the trained and experienced public school librarians whose job it is to decide what books need to be in our public school libraries. If a parent doesn't want their child to read a book, it's THEIR job as a parent to do that work--not the librarians' work and not their teachers' work. And most certainly not your work to do as state lawmakers. Parents do NOT have a right to limit other people's children's access to information / resources / texts. Furthermore, the state should not legislate how local school districts choose to run their schools.

Judy Alter
Texas Institute of Letters, Sisters in Crime, Women Writing the West
Fort Worth, TX

I am the parent of four who went through Texas public schools in the seventies and eighties and seven grandchildren all of whom are or have been in the public school system. I am a big supporter of public education, think vouchers are nothing but a gift to private and charter schools, and a believer that trained librarians should choose books. Having taught English at the college level and published books for an academic press, I know that books are crucial to education and must be chosen carefully, not according to personal beliefs or faith or what someone personally thinks might harm children (they are tougher than you think and need realistic exposure to the world). Several of my friends hold masters degrees in library science--not that it is just that--a science, not for outsiders no matter their expertise in other fields.

Emma Berquist
Self, writer
Bastrop, TX

I am a writer with family members in Texas public schools. I support Texas school librarians who are trained professional educators that select books based on local policies, approved by our school board. I trust school librarians, not out-of-state vendors, to determine if content in books is appropriate.

Mark Russell

Self

Houston, TX

I am writing to register my support for HB 900. I strongly support HB 900 because it prohibits harmful, sexually explicit materials in public schools.

Thank you.

Elyse Rosenberg

self

Austin, TX

Each parent should be able to make the decision for their own children which books they might object to. One specific parent should not be able to decide for everyone else's child/children. This is a terrible bill and will cause students to be close minded. By the way, banning books only makes kids want to read it even more. They will find a way to get it, so it's a waste of time to ban in libraries.

Cristina Abbenante

Self/Parent

San Antonio, TX

As the parent of a child in Texas public schools, an aunt to four children in Texas public schools, a concerned citizen for all of the children in Texas public schools, a former librarian, and a former teacher, I fully support and trust Texas public school librarians to select appropriate books based on local, school-board approved policies. School librarians are highly trained educators who specialize in curating collections that meet the diverse needs of their schools. It makes no sense to have out of state vendors or state politicians determining whether a book is appropriate for a local school classroom or library. It makes no sense to add yet another layer of regulation to address a problem that doesn't exist, when locally approved policies are already in place to ensure appropriate reading materials and parent oversight. HB 900 is unnecessary and overreaching.

Jena Russell

Self

Houston, TX

I strongly support HB 900 because it prohibits harmful, sexually explicit materials in public schools.

Thank you.

Elizabeth Trauer

Self Concerned parent

Bells, TX

We require so much of our librarians to be well educated. Let's us trust the experts to provide age appropriate reading material. Perhaps if we stopped focusing on banning books, the money spent to pass this bill could be better served in educating our children on what healthy sexual relationships/behavior/activities are and should be. Let's stop pretending and ignoring. Let's educate in hopes of having more responsible children/parents/citizens.

Amanda Wilson

Self

Austin, TX

Our librarians are qualified to decide which books go in our libraries and there are already processes in place for parents to opt their children out of checking out books they deem offensive. Please say no to HB 900. Thank you.

Kitty Spalding

self--retired public school librarian

El Paso, TX

I am a retired public school librarian who received my Master's degree in Library and Information Science from our beloved University of Texas at Austin in 1995. I spent many arduous hours doing classwork that involved learning how to evaluate the content of library books under consideration--their age-appropriateness, their educational value, their encouragement of the delight of reading, and their relevance to the lives of our young students. Certified school librarians have been trained and vetted to evaluate books needed for their specific libraries. Texas should not have commercial vendors making these decisions. In my years working at the elementary and secondary levels, I saw how diverse and how needy our students were, especially those students who were living in difficult--sometimes horrific--home situations. Therefore some--not all--of these students needed information and fictional examples of how to deal with physical, emotional, and sexual abuse. Many students were not informed of the hormonal changes happening to their developing bodies because this normal growing process was discussed neither at home nor in school. And, yes, there were some --not all--students who were confused and conflicted about their gender identity. Libraries serve the needs of all their clients. Our school policy was that if a parent objected to a certain book, it was withheld from their child, but not from all students. That's a denial of service. One parent does not have the right to decide what is best for all students. We must trust professional librarians. Please do not approve this bill.

Michele Jackson

Self - teacher

Katy, TX

I support Texas school librarians who are highly trained professional educators that select books based on local policies, approved by our school board. I trust school librarians, not out-of-state vendors, to determine if content in books is appropriate. And parents, not the state, are responsible for determining what their children read.

Susan Markus

self, retired attorney, mother, grandmother

Austin, TX

I support Texas school librarians who are highly trained professional educators that select books based on local policies, approved by our school board. I trust school librarians, not out-of-state vendors, to determine if content in books is appropriate. And parents, not the state, are responsible for determining what their children read. Every parent has the right to decide what their child reads, but they - and you - do not have the right to decide what I will allow my child to read.

Herlinda Glasscock, Dr.

Self, Retired College President.

Corinth, TX

As I retired college president, I oppose Rep. Patterson's proposed legislation. School librarians are professional educators who are well prepared to select books based on local policies put in place by local school boards. I trust the judgement of a librarian over any textbook vendor any day! As a grandparent and an educator, I believe HB 900 is misguided and oversteps the boundaries of state responsibilities.

Amanda Gardner

Amanda Gardner

New Boston, TX

Although I am not a parent or grandparent, I am a Christian & I am concerned about the horrible, distasteful, sexual books that are in Texas School Libraries. I am in favor of regulations to books sold or given to school libraries because we need to protect our children, our future, from harmful influences & suggestions because these books could confuse & destroy the minds of the children of this great state.

Kari Worsham
ALTA/TLA/Self
Bonham, TX

I support Texas school librarians who are highly trained professional educators carrying certification as a school teacher and a Master's degree in Library Science that they are highly trained to select books based on local policies, approved by school boards. I trust school librarians, not out-of-state vendors, to determine if content in books is appropriate for their children and school population. And parents, not the state, are responsible for determining what their children read.

Elizabeth Norman
Self
Abilene, TX

I support Texas school librarians who are highly trained professional educators that select books based on local policies, approved by our school board. I trust school librarians, not out-of-state vendors or other entities, to determine if content in books is appropriate. Parents, NOT the state, are responsible for determining what their children read.

Frisinger Molly
Self, parent and student
Austin, TX

School librarians are qualified to deal with book selection on their own. Schools already have ways for parents and guardians to opt their students out of materials or activities they deem objectionable. This bill removes control that local schools and parents already have for no additional benefits to students or families.

Becky Stich
Self
New Braunfels, TX

I am a retired elementary school teacher and I support Texas school librarians who are highly trained professional educators that select books based on local policies, approved by our school board. I trust school librarians, not out-of-state vendors, to determine if content in books is appropriate. And parents, not the state, are responsible for determining what their children read.

Laura Foreman
Self
Mansfield, TX

I am a parent of two kids in public school. Both are voracious readers, something they get from me. We talk about what they're reading every single day at bedtime. In addition to reading the books they check out from the school library, they have other books they read at home as well. My older son loves fiction; my younger son is on a WWII kick right now. I trust librarians, who receive extensive education and training, to purchase appropriate books for their schools. Books contain more than information; they provide access to lives outside of our own. Librarians know their students and parents know their kids. Who doesn't know the kids? Publishers. They are in the business of providing content to make money. The decision to purchase books for a library shouldn't be in the hands of publishers; it should be in the hands of librarians.

Christine Otterness
Self / School Librarian
AMARILLO, TX

I am a public school Librarian that is vehemently against HB 900. As a highly trained professional educator I select books based on local policies, approved by our school board. I trust myself and other school librarians, not out-of-state vendors, to determine if content in books is appropriate. I believe it is ultimately parents, not the state, who are responsible for determining what books their children read. HB 900 is nothing but corporate and state censorship that would violate every public school students' 1st amendment rights , as well as their freedom to read. Please vote "NO" on HB 900. Thank you!

Kim Goyette

Self

Austin, TX

Please vote no to HB 900. Our librarians are qualified to choose which books are appropriate for our children and already have rules in place to do so. This decision should be local. Thank you!

Penny Wise

Self/Teacher

Gilmer, TX

I support Texas school librarians who are highly trained professional educators that select books based on local policies, approved by our school board. I trust school librarians, not out-of-state vendors, to determine if the content in books is appropriate. And parents, not the state, are responsible for determining what their children read.

Marla Ferguson

Parent

Cedar Park, TX

I trust school librarians to choose books for school libraries. They know the community and are under the guidance set by the local school board. I trust parents to choose what their children read. Librarians provide books for families not just students. Parents and librarians work together to educate children. I do not trust third parties to choose books that will be in school libraries.

Lorena Knosel

Self

Laredo, TX

I DO NOT support banning books in school. Therefore I DO NOT support the implementation of this bill.

Dianna Landes

self, Library Director

Pipe Creek, TX

I disagree with allowing publishers to "rate" books. Texas schools are staffed with highly educated librarians. Let them do the job they were hired to do and stop trying to let people who do not have the education make the decisions. Parents are ultimately the people who are to decide what their children are allowed to read. Let the parents control their children and their child's reading habits. This is not the concern of either the government or the school, as it is each persons right as an American to raise their child in the way they see fit. Part of that right is to decide their child's reading material. Stay out of library book selection and vote no to this bill. Thank you.

Hanna Guidry

Self - concerned citizen

Plano, TX

I support Texas school librarians who are highly trained professional educators that select books based on local policies, approved by our school board. I trust school librarians, not out-of-state vendors, to determine if content in books is appropriate. And parents, not the state, are responsible for determining what their children read.

Kambra Allen, Mrs

Self, engineer

Austin, TX

The state legislature should not determine specific content of public school libraries. Local districts, campuses, librarians and parents should determine materials best able to meet needs of their students.

Janice HINDS

Jesus Christ

Temple, TX

I strongly support HB900 because it prohibits harmful, sexually explicit materials in public schools"

Cathy Berner

Self - bookseller

Houston, TX

I am a trained librarian turned bookseller. I support Texas school librarians who are highly trained professional educators that select books based on local policies, approved by our school board. I trust school librarians, not out-of-state vendors, to determine if content in books is appropriate. And parents, not the state, are responsible for determining what their children read. Please allow local selection policies to determine what books are included on public school library shelves. Thanks for your consideration! - Cathy Berner

ARTHUR CAMERON

Self, Retired

Tyler, TX

I strongly support HB 900 because it prohibits harmful, sexually explicit materials in public schools.

Jessica Jensen, Reading is a right

Self, librarian

Amarillo, TX

As a librarian in a public school district, I have had extensive training and certification in children's literature, collection development, and students' educational needs. This bill attempt to negate every certification and degree I have been forced to obtain in order to do my job and do it well. Students have a right to read books of their own choosing and only their parents should be making decisions about what is off limits. Libraries are for everyone. Library books are not curriculum and they do not have to be read by anyone who chooses not to do. Removing books from a library shelf is a violation of students' first amendment rights.

Bethany Dietrich

Librarian

Bastrop, TX

I support Texas school librarians who are highly trained professional educators that select books based on local policies, approved by our school board. I trust school librarians, not out-of-state vendors, to determine if content in books is appropriate. And parents, not the state, are responsible for determining what their children read.

Nancy Schumann

self

Austin, TX

As a concerned citizen, I support Texas school librarians who are highly trained professional educators that select books based on local policies, approved by our school board. I trust school librarians, not out-of-state vendors, to determine if content in books is appropriate. And parents, not the state, are responsible for determining what their children read.

Lesley Lambson

self

Fort Worth, TX

HB 900 is contrary to Texans' values. It undermines local control, interferes with the free market, and harms public education. I have four children in Texas public schools. Their librarians are excellent professional educators that have done a marvelous job providing them with age appropriate reading material. This bill is a solution in search of a problem. And the proposed "solution" will have several negative outcomes. Instead of librarians following collection policies put in place by locally elected school boards, this bill would put the power to decide what my children have access to in the hands of out of state book vendors. The bill also hampers the ability of book vendors to do business with Texas schools. This bill adds unnecessary layers of bureaucracy to school library collection development. Education will suffer as a result.

Alexis McCarty

self, Realtor

Richmond, TX

I strongly support HB900 because it prohibits harmful, sexually explicit materials in public schools.

Connie Stamps, Ms

Self

Waco, TX

"I strongly support HB900 because it prohibits harmful, sexually explicit materials in public schools"

Carol Ottmers

Self

Fredericksburg, TX

We are fighting to have sexually explicit books removed from our public school libraries here in Fredericksburg, TX. I am angry that we have to even discuss this. What happened to morals and doing what is right for our children? It seems that those who want to keep them in our libraries are winning as most of these books REMAIN in our libraries. I do not understand why our current School Board has not removed them. They formed a Book Review Committee but it seems they vote according to political lines. This should NOT be political. PLEASE help us. This is about our children. I DO NOT want my tax dollars used to buy pornography.

Jane Bering, Retired Librarian

Self, Retired Librarian

Abilene, TX

I support Texas school librarians who are highly trained professional educators that select books based on local policies, approved by our school board. I trust school librarians, not out-of-state vendors, to determine if content in books is appropriate. And parents, not the state, are responsible for determining what their children read.

Delight Hogan

Self

Frisco, TX

Efforts by Rep. Patterson would result in 3rd party book vendors rating individual library materials which is highly inappropriate. He seeks to ban books which he personally finds offensive to his own belief system and he is not shy about making sure that he expects others to conform to his beliefs. As a Frisco resident of 20+ years and someone who has educated 3 children in this district, his attempts at book banning are egregious and misplaced. Those who seek to ban books have never been on the right side of history. As long time residents of Frisco, we are vehemently opposed to HB 900.

Kori Reininger
Self- Librarian
San Antonio, TX

I support Texas school librarians who are highly trained professional educators that select books based on local policies, approved by our school board. I trust school librarians, not out-of-state vendors, to determine if content in books is appropriate. And parents, not the state, are responsible for determining what their children read.

Jinny Sutherland
self, Educator
Katy, TX

I support Texas school librarians, who are highly trained professional educators that select books based on local policies, which are approved by our elected school board. I trust school librarians, not out-of-state vendors, to determine if content in books is appropriate. The librarians have the students' best interests at heart, while the vendors' purpose is to make money. Lastly, as a parent of 4 children who all graduated after spending their elementary, jr high and high school years in the Katy ISD public school system, I say vehemently that parents, not the state, are responsible for determining what their children read and when it is appropriate for them to do so.

Colleen Wu
self Health analyst
Austin, TX

Our librarians are qualified to decide which books go in our libraries and there are already processes in place for parents to opt their children out of checking out books they deem offensive. Please say no to HB 900. The government should not be deciding which books I want to allow my children to read. I can look over the available books at my child's school myself and decide if there are any I don't want them to read. Book banning and book censorship is inappropriate and go against the doctrine of free speech.

Donna Kwiatkowski
Self
Sugar Land, TX

I strongly support HB900 because it prohibits harmful, sexually explicit materials in public schools

Joy Kunkel
Self, retired
Riesel, TX

Honorable Representatives,
I strongly support HB 900 by Honorable Representative Patterson. Please protect our children and grandchildren from sexually explicit material from all library but especially school libraries.
Sincerely,
Joy Kunkel

patti ballard
self
Tenaha, TX

My family totaly supports this bill. Thank you for bringing this bill forward

MaryG Zell
Self
Round Rock, TX

As a parent and retired public school teacher, I support Texas school librarians who are highly trained professional educators that select books based on local policies, approved by our school board. I trust school librarians, not out-of-state vendors, to determine if content in books is appropriate. And parents, not the state, are responsible for determining what their children read.

Frank Wright Jr, Mr
Self / Lamar County Republican Party Precinct Chairman (3I)
Powderly, TX

I have lived in North Lamar ISD for 39+ years; both of my adult children attended NL grades K-12 where my wife and I were volunteers and band boosters giving generously of our time, and through my employer's Community Partner's financial gifts.

In Nov 2021 following a review of NL library contents, I spoke at the school board meeting to call attention to the 22 book titles that had thus far been identified as inappropriate/concerning to be in a public school (additional inappropriate books were later identified). A list of the concerning books, the author, and a brief summary of the inappropriate content was given to each school board member. I shared some of the specific inappropriate content in *The Bluest Eye* by Toni Morrison which is sexually explicit, pro-pedophilia, contains race hatred, bestiality, and the justified rape of an 11 year old child by her father. I asked the board to assign resources to begin a more thorough review of their school's reading materials so that they could remove any inappropriate content, and I offered my help in this effort.

I was ignored by the administration, so in Dec 2021 I submitted a formal Reconsideration Request for *The Bluest Eye* which specifically referenced the pervasive vulgarity, sexual explicitness, rape, incest, pedophilia, and the book's overall lack of educational value as reasons for removal. I followed every step of the district's policy from beginning to end which included an initial informal meeting with the HS Principal, a formal meeting with the HS Principal, a level 1 appeal meeting with the HS Principal, a level 2 appeal meeting with the HS Principal and the Asst Superintendent, and finally a level 3 appeal meeting with the school board where the district's attorney was a very partial "presiding officer".

At multiple meetings I read the sexually explicit and incestuous rape and pro-pedophilia content to the administration. In the earlier meetings, I asked the district to bring their copy of the book to the meeting and I read to them directly from their book. In later meetings, they refused to bring their book so I read facsimiles of the same passages to them. Copies of the inappropriate content were also given to the school board members.

The district's reasons for keeping the book included that they only use an excerpt from the book for an AP English class, and that the book was required in order to obtain dual credit (this was later determined to be false by CollegeBoard AP).

There was also a smear campaign against me for raising awareness of this issue, and several false/inappropriate accusations were directed to me and my family both privately and on social media, as well as at the Dec 2021 school board meeting following my Nov 2021 comments to the board.

My ISD has kept this highly inappropriate, sexually explicit, pro-pedophilia book in the school so it is clear to me that a legislative solution (such as HB 900) is therefore required, and is the reason for my testimony

Lori Adamczyk
SELF
The Woodlands, TX

Keep the politics out of the library! Stop micro-managing libraries and creating more work for already overburdened librarians and educators. This law is unnecessary and distracts from the REAL issues they should be focused on—raising the basic allotment; increasing compensation for teachers & staff; improving school safety; and ensuring students and teachers have mental health supports.

I support Texas school librarians who are highly trained professional educators that select books based on local policies, approved by our school board. I trust school librarians, not out-of-state vendors, to determine if content in books is appropriate. And parents, not the state, are responsible for determining what their children read.

Michelle Welch
Self
Richardson, TX

Please support this bill. These trashy books have no redeeming value, and our tax dollars shouldn't pay for this garbage. I would rather have schoolchildren NOT read books than to have them read books filled with garbage. I do not want to put filth into their minds. I don't care what grade they are in; there is no place in our schools for this material. Let's fill their minds with truth, beauty, and goodness. We've all heard the phrase, "garbage in, garbage out."

Yi Ching Fong
Self
Austin, TX

I am a concerned parent and community member, and urge you to vote against HB 900, and to stop vilifying our librarians and undervaluing the important and thoughtful work they do. Thank you.

Patricia Boucher
Self
New Braunfels, TX

A book can provide a mirror to see oneself and one's community, be a window to another world, or at its best, be a doorway to better understand someone's lived (or fantastical) experience. Every child - whether they are persons of color, LGBT, or someone who has suffered abuse of any kind - deserves to see themselves in a book. Reading stories gives children language for what they have experienced. Without that language, kids have no way to frame their own experiences, making it more difficult to protect them in their daily lives. Reading stories also increases empathy for people who are different, something that is ever more important in the diverse state of Texas.

I can't believe that Texas parents want to give up their rights, in what could become a slippery slope towards the book banning that is a highlight of fascist and authoritarian regimes. While some parents may object to some books in school libraries, I strongly object to a small minority of parents, overreaching state senators and representatives, or any corporation deciding what my children read. Additionally, I support Texas school librarians who are highly trained professional educators - they have both an education degree AND a MA or MS in Library Science - and I trust them to select books based on local policies, approved by our school board. I trust school librarians, not legislators or out-of-state vendors, to determine if content in books is appropriate. And parents, not the state, are responsible for determining what their children read.

David Newsome
Self
Little River-Academy, TX

I am totally in favor of HB900. We must protect our children by giving them healthy literature during their development.

Cholly Rolater, Mrs.
Self
Plano, TX

I am appalled that this bill is even up for consideration! We are going to end up with the most ignorant population in this country. Parents have a responsibility to read and monitor what their children read if necessary, it is not the responsibility of government authorities, unless you happen to live in a communist country.

Gretchen Otto
self / parent
Austin, TX

Our librarians are qualified to decide which books go in our libraries and there are already processes in place for parents to opt their children out of checking out books they deem offensive. Please say no to HB 900.

Jessica Howard

Self

Lakeway, TX

All children need to be taught age appropriate material and the focus needs to be on education. If the subject of sex/ gender is brought up in any way then parental consent is required even if it is a book being read. If this is not adhered to, The Texas Public Education System have officially turned themselves into groomers and are preying on our children.

Holly Boyter

self - medical claims processor

Duncanville, TX

Librarians are trained professionals and should be given the autonomy needed to select books included in our libraries. Legislators need to keep out of trying to choose what books are appropriate. That is the responsibility of librarians and parents. I am a Texas resident and a native Texan and I OPPOSE this bill!

Gary Meo

Self/Retired

Austin, TX

I support Texas school librarians who are highly trained professional educators that select books based on local policies, approved by our school board. I trust school librarians, not out-of-state vendors, to determine if content in books is appropriate. And parents, not the state, are responsible for determining what their children read.

John Lane

Self

Huntsville, TX

I am a parent with a child in a Texas public school. I support Texas school librarians, who are highly trained professional educators that select books based on local policies, who are also approved by our school board. I trust school librarians, not out-of-state vendors, to determine if content in books is appropriate. Lastly, it is parents, not the state, who are ultimately responsible for determining what their children read.

Sandra Bohac

Family

Victoria, TX

Please pass HB900 to protect our children. I live in Victoria TX and we are having a hard time getting inappropriate books out of reach of our young children. Some of these books are just short of pornographic. Young minds are so easily influenced and if we don't guard their minds it can be detrimental to their future.

Brenda Brooks

Family

Inez, TX

HB 900 please support this bill to protect our children

Susan Bauer, Family

Self

Victoria, TX

Our children should not be subjected to information not appropriate for their age. Please support this bill to protect our young children.

Crissy Eliashar
Parent and teacher in Texas
Jonestown, TX

I support Texas school librarians who are highly trained professional educators that select books based on local policies, approved by our school board. I trust school librarians, not out-of-state vendors, to determine if content in books is appropriate. And parents, not the state, are responsible for determining what their children read.

Lynne Gellman
self
Austin, TX

I am a concerned citizen. I support Texas school librarians who are highly trained professional educators that select books based on local policies, approved by our school board. I trust school librarians, not out-of-state vendors, to determine if content in books is appropriate. And parents, not the state, are responsible for determining what their children read. Thank you.

Mary Studor
self
Fredericksburg, TX

Students are NOT being protected in the government schools in Fredericksburg. Sexually explicit literature as well as those which desensitize self-harm and suicide. At least one book promoting transgenderism is in the elementary school in Fredericksburg. If it's happening in Fredericksburg, it's almost certain to be in all schools. Who is profiting from this? Let's protect Texas children! Thank you!

Marinan Williams
self
Austin, TX

Our librarians are qualified to decide which books go in our libraries. Furthermore, parents have a process for restricting access to books they believe are inappropriate for their children.

Joni Harris
self - School Librarian
GARLAND, TX

I am a parent of two children that attend public schools in Texas. I support Texas school librarians who are highly trained professional educators that select books based on local policies, approved by our school board. I trust school librarians, not out-of-state vendors, to determine if content in books is appropriate. And parents, not the state, are responsible for determining what their children read.

marty henderson
NCJW
Austin, TX

I support Texas school librarians who are highly trained professional educators that select books based on local policies, approved by our school board. I trust school librarians, not out-of-state vendors, to determine if content in books is appropriate. And parents, not the state, are responsible for determining what their children read.

Susan Thorne
Self
Austin,, TX

I trust our professional librarians, teachers and school administrators to choose books for our school libraries that are appropriate, true and worthwhile for students in our public schools.

Donald Wyman, Mr
Victoria county Republicans
Victoria, TX

I strongly support HB 900 to keep sexually explicit and dangerously perverted literature out of our libraries in our children's schools

Ashley Alford
Personal
Hewitt, TX

I strongly support HB900 because it prohibits harmful, sexually explicit materials in public schools. I have 3 children in the Texas Public School in the Midway ISD. I am truly concerned with the materials my children will be exposed. I strongly urge removing all materials which may be detrimental to all children's emotional and intellectual development.

Paula Larsen
self - attorney
Dallas, TX

I am beginning to wonder whether I am confused about what country I live in. Maybe it's China or Russia and not the United States. This is a dangerous first step to censorship. I am strongly opposed to it.

April Scott
Self-Asst Mgr.
Leander, TX

Our librarians are qualified to decide which books go in our libraries and there are already processes in place for parents to opt their children out of checking out books they deem offensive. Please say no to HB 900. Thank you.

Penny Kehoe
Self, Retired Registered Nurse
Lorena, TX

As a Grandmother of 2 Texas Boys in the public school system, I strongly support HB900 because it prohibits harmful, sexually explicit materials in public schools.

Thank you

Kathryn Hoffman, Ms.
Self Retired Librarian Parent and Grandparent
Houston, TX

I support Texas school librarians who are highly trained professional educators that select books based on local policies, approved by our school board. I trust school librarians, not out-of-state vendors, to determine if content in books is appropriate. And parents, not the state, are responsible for determining what their children read.

Sandra Ruiz, Ms.
Self
Victoria, TX

I strongly support HB900. I firmly believe that harmful, sexually explicit material should be prohibited in our public schools.

Justin Sansbury
self - Developer
Manchaca, TX

I support Texas school librarians who are highly trained professional educators that select books based on local policies, approved by our school board. I trust school librarians, not out-of-state vendors, to determine if content in books is appropriate. And parents, not the state, are responsible for determining what their children read.

Mary Ann Bartee
Self
Bellaire, TX

I strongly support HB900 because it prevents sexually explicit literature in schools.

JB Sipherd
Self
El Paso, TX

Selection of materials for school libraries is best left to the local schools and the professional librarians who serve them. I was a school librarian and took special care to select items appropriate for my students. We must depend on the skill and integrity of local professionals to purchase materials that meet the needs and interests of the readers. Different communities have varied values and needs. Expecting book publishers and vendors to rate material is illogical. Let us buy the most appropriate products for our own communities. We will continue to do a great job!

Richard Hoffman
RETIRED
Houston, TX

I support Texas school librarians who are highly trained professional educators that select books based on local policies, approved by our school board. I trust school librarians, not out-of-state vendors, to determine if content in books is appropriate. And parents, not the state, are responsible for determining what their children read.

Priscilla Delgado Hermiller, Dr.
self, librarian
Bastrop, TX

I support Texas school librarians who are highly trained professional educators that select books based on local policies, approved by their school board. I trust school librarians, not out-of-state vendors, to determine if content in books is appropriate. Parents are responsible for determining what their children read. The state should NOT be allowed to determine what books students are able to access.

Cynthia McCaleb
self retired teacher
Hwy 1431, Kingsland, TX

To our Honorable Representatives in the Texas congress.

After having closely observed a number of "pornographic" materials which were intended for children in our public libraries (and schools), we are deeply concerned and offended. It is far worse than the former adult Playboy magazines we have seen in the past. Nor is it appropriate informational material for the "facts of life" . Please reserve this type of "education" for parents only.
Thank you

Dr. Millie Alford
McLennan County Republican Women
Mc Gregor, TX

I strongly support HB900 because it prohibits harmful, sexually explicit materials in public schools. I am a retired Teacher, and believe we are responsible for nurturing all our children with wholesome reading and research materials. We have 7 Grandchildren, 4 of whom are in the Texas School System, and we are truly dedicated to ridding our public schools of harmful materials and encouraging strong moral and beneficial books.

Rochelle Mortazavi
Self
Houston, TX

I support Texas school librarians who are highly trained professional educators that select books based on local policies, approved by our school board. I trust school librarians, not out-of-state vendors, to determine if content in books is appropriate. And parents, not the state, are responsible for determining what their children read.

Rochelle Mortazavi

SHAHREEN ABEDIN
self, communications professional
AUSTIN, TX

Our librarians are qualified to decide which books go in our libraries and there are already processes in place for parents to opt their children out of checking out books they deem offensive. Please say no to HB 900. Thank you

Jo Kallison
Self
Austin, TX

I am a concerned citizen and I strongly oppose HB 900. I support Texas school librarians who are highly trained professional educators that select books based on local policies, approved by our school board. I trust school librarians, not out-of-state vendors, to determine if content in books is appropriate. And parents, not the state, are responsible for determining what their children read.

Rick Alford
Ashley's Crew-MS WALK - WACO 2018
Mc Gregor, TX

I strongly support HB900 because it prohibits harmful, sexually explicit materials in public schools.

Nicole Villegas, Dr
Self
Laredo, TX

There should be no regulation.

Analiza Perez-Gomez
Self. Librarian
Laredo, TX

I trust school librarians not vendors to determine the appropriateness of books and to select titles that best fit the needs of their students and teachers.

Carolyn Rachaner

Self

Lantana, TX

I am writing to support HB 900 and to rid our school libraries of sexually explicit books. Our public schools should be focused on education, and they should not be providing minors with erotic books and traumatic descriptions of sexual activities. This should be unacceptable in the state of Texas! Parents desperately need this bill to pass to protect our children.

Jennifer Bludau

self- concerned citizen

Hallettsville, TX

I support Texas school librarians who are highly trained professional educators that select books based on local policies approved by their school board. I trust school librarians, not out-of-state vendors, to determine if content in books is appropriate. And parents, not the state, are responsible for determining what their children read.

Mary Kathryn Chandler

self; grandparent; retired teacher

Woodway, TX

The State has insured, through its own required qualifications for licensed educators, that the public schools have highly trained professionals, librarians and teachers, who select books based on campus, district, and school board policies which are supported by the communities who elected the school board members. They determine the relevancy. The parents are responsible for selecting what their children read. They also determine the relevancy. The vendors, who will benefit from this ban, will get to make the decisions about relevancy for us.

Mary Anne Weatherred

Self/Mom

Fort Worth, TX

I am a parent to 2 Texas Public school students. Librarians are trained educators who should be trusted to curate school book collections. They have the expertise and in my experience love for books and children to make the best decisions for appropriate books for students. Parents have always had the ability to limit their children's choices. Please do not limit my and my children's choices of what to read with unnecessary legislation.

Alice Meloy

Self, retail bookselling

Houston, TX

I believe that school librarians and school districts -- not booksellers-- should determine which books to bring into school libraries and classrooms. As a bookseller, I believe in making all books available to the public. Booksellers cannot read every book that is published to determine specific content. That is the job of the schools and parents. Moreover, sexual content of a book is very much open to interpretation and booksellers should not be required to analyze books that schools ask us to sell to them. If approved, this bill would create a severe hardship for booksellers. How would such a law be enforced? This is not the way to protect children from pornography. Parents should be the ultimate arbiters of what their children can read.

Shannon Ross

Self/CCDF

Corpus Christi, TX

I strongly support HB900 because it prohibits harmful, sexually explicit materials in public schools. I have been working with County Citizens Defending Freedom in Nueces County to get these books out of our public schools. We could do this if this bill passes. Please protect our children.

Sara TAYLOR
Self - parent and librarian
Hurst, TX

I support Texas school librarians who are highly trained professional educators that select books based on local policies, approved by our school board. I trust school librarians, not out-of-state vendors, to determine if content in books is appropriate. And parents, not the state, are responsible for determining what their children read.

Suzanne Daniels
Self
Austin, TX

Our librarians are qualified to decide which books go in our libraries and there are already processes in place for parents to opt their children out of checking out books they deem offensive. Please say no to HB 900. Thank you.

Shonda Brown
citizen
Zavalla, TX

I support Texas school librarians who are highly trained professional educators that select books based on local policies, approved by our school board. I trust school librarians, not out-of-state vendors, to determine if content in books is appropriate. And parents, not the state, are responsible for determining what their children read.

Steve Hinds, Mr
Jesus Christ
Temple, TX

I strongly support HB900 because it prohibits harmful, sexually explicit materials in public schools"

Kelly Knight
Self
Winnsboro, TX

Our librarians are qualified to decide which books go in our libraries and there are already processes in place for parents to opt their children out of checking out books they deem offensive. Please say no to HB 900. Thank you.

Patricia Sandoval, Hb 900
CADEP's Christian church
El Paso, TX

I do want it to be remove from library schools immediately

Samantha Chang
self
Austin, TX

Our librarians are qualified to decide which books go in our libraries and there are already processes in place for parents to opt their children out of checking out books they deem offensive. Please say no to HB 900. Thank you.

Terri Driver, Ms.

Self

WACO, TX

I strongly support HB900 because it prohibits harmful, sexually explicit materials in public schools. My own children have their own children now, and times have certainly changed. Our granddaughters and grandsons already have so many threats of exposure to age inappropriate material through social media that they should not have to worry that their own library would be a source of such abuse. Please pass this bill, HB 900.

Meghan Bracamonte

Self, Art Director

Austin, TX

Our librarians are qualified to decide which books go in our libraries and there are already processes in place for parents to opt their children out of checking out books they deem offensive. Please say no to HB 900. Thank you.

Melinda Olinde

self - retired

Magnolia, TX

Please vote for HB900 to get all porn and sexual books out of public schools, the libraries and classrooms. What you fill your mind with is what you become. We need honor and respect back in schools, not filth!

Sue Vallejo

C D Faulks PTA

Round Rock, TX

Vote NO, our schools already have rules they follow to keep inappropriate books out & parents have options in place for making choices . WE DO NOT NEED THE STATE TO TELL US WHAT BOOKS ARE APPROPRIATE .

Christen George

Self / self

Houston, TX

I strongly oppose this bill. I respect and trust librarians to select books that are appropriate and wish to keep this proposed oppression and government intervention out of schools.

Amanda Young

Self/ Administrative Assistant

Burleson, TX

As a parent and grandmother I feel that our librarians have the best interest of the children. I do understand that some books are not for everyone. I mean when I was growing up I didn't like art, car or history books but I realized then as I do now that this is the United States of America. We don't all have to like everything but we need to respect everyone's opinion this is what our founding fathers wanted for all of us. I think that if you don't like a book you don't have to read it.

Shara Kilarski

Self

Austin, TX

Our librarians are qualified professionals and more than capable of deciding which books go in our libraries. There are appropriate processes in place for parents to opt their children out of checking out books they deem offensive. Please say NO to HB 900. Thank you.

Joan Edelstein

self

Austin, TX

I strongly support Texas school librarians who are highly trained professional educators that select books based on local policies, approved by our school board. I trust school librarians, not out-of-state vendors, to determine if content in books is appropriate. And parents, not the state, are responsible for determining what their children read.

Annette Johnson, LMSW

Self

Tomball, TX

I am not in favor of this bill as it takes responsible decision making about library materials away from schools and parents. I support Texas school librarians who are highly trained professional educators that select books based on local policies, approved by our school board. I trust school librarians, not out-of-state vendors, to determine if content in books is appropriate. And parents, not the state, are responsible for determining what their children read.

Thanks you.

Phoebe Salassi

Self

Frisco, TX

I reside in the boundaries of Frisco ISD. The bill that Patterson is proposing is baseless and does not protect children from information that is not already available for other means. Librarians are disciplined and trained to understand the content that is appropriate for their audience. I have complete trust in librarians, especially Frisco and Texan librarians, to provide age appropriate opportunities for children to learn and gain exposure in safe spaces. Mr. Patterson's definition of unsafe content has been any mention of conflict, immigration, race, homosexuality, or transgender mention. Why are we wasting tax payer dollars to govern public libraries and school libraries when smart phones and the Internet are readily available. All one has to do is look around the state of Texas and you will see any of the ideas that are "banned" exist and are part of our community. This time and money waste of bill shows intolerance, ignorance, and an aversion to diversity and inclusion. I am also on a committee of parents that are charged with reading books that are proposed for being banned. One book I reviewed was Date Me, Bryson Keller. The book was being reviewed for a homosexual relationship at the middle school age. By middle school, students are aware that homosexual relationships exist. There was nothing salacious, racy, or inappropriate more than the mention of a kiss and a love interest. You will find much worse in any YouTube video or PG13 movies. The reason we have the first amendment is for freedoms of speech, including access to content. Parents are welcome to act as a censure to their own families. No children should be restricted based on an individual group's ideals. Diversity in thought, culture, arts, and our own communities is what makes Texas a better place. Please do not allow this bill to pass. Our children deserve a wider narrative and to experience the wonder and perspective that books can bring. Librarians are skilled and degreed in this area. Our faith and trust is rightfully in our librarians. Our books should be accessible to all that want to read. Please use public money for true public benefit.

John Calgaro

Cristo Rey Parish

Austin, TX

I whole heartily support this legislation (HB 900). We should not allow any school or public institution to corrupt our children with obscene material. Plus, parents have the absolute right to know what kind of books are in the libraries and what materials are shown or given to their children.

annete bennett
self. retired
Fredericksburg, TX

It is important that this bill pass. As a resident of small town Fredericksburg, we have had tremendous push back from our own school board regarding this issue. There are sexually explicit books which are age in appropriate that are in our libraries that we have been unable to remove. This is part of the agenda to make the STATE the parents and remove parental authority and morals. I urge passage of HB900

Jennifer Rogers
Self
The Woodlands, TX

Keep politics out of our libraries! This committee should be incredibly ashamed that this is where time is being spent, rather than in finding real, sustainable solutions to funding our public schools and dealing with the incredible strain on recruiting, hiring, and RETAINING certified educators in this state. The lack of prioritization here is truly appalling. You all have been entrusted, as elected officials, to support the public education of all Texans - Texas currently ranks 38 out of 50 when it comes to funding for education. Have the courage to do your jobs and work on real, tough problems rather than hiding behind these ridiculous charades. You are better than this and voters certainly see through this wasteful use of taxpayer dollars in an attempt to detract from lack of action around the actual work that needs to be done. Do not be impotent politicians striving for the spotlight - please take your jobs seriously and focus on critical issues at hand.

Milena Kontareva
myself
Allen, TX

I support bill HB900. A mother of three school children, I am astonished and heartbroken over the amount of pornographic and obscene material that is available for children in school libraries. It looks like ALA made it a priority for some reason to open the flood gates, instead of providing developmentally appropriate and truly educational materials. This is unacceptable and there is have to be consequences, just like we do have consequences for adults providing pornographic material to minors in park, in store or over social media. As a parent, this is the crucial thing that can keep the trust with schools and taxpayers. We have relocated to Texas from New York (lived there for decades), because our school were hijacked by political and sexual propaganda, which denied children the quality education and started to affect (traumatize) them mentally. There are thousands of other families that had to make that not an easy move. Only to find out the problem still exists here, but we hope for willingness to fix it for our kids and educators. We, parents in one of the North Texan districts, brought a long list to our administration, many were taken off shelves in disbelief they made it to libraries on first place, but how many we missed, nobody knows and it shouldn't be a job of a parent afterall to withdraw obscenity. It should come prior. Please look at electronic libraries that have all sorts of outside links, luring children towards inappropriate and pornographic content. I ask you to evaluate the mounting evidence and urgency for such bill. Thank you for your cooperation and attention.

Patricia Teinert
Self /Early Intervention Specialist/Teacher
Victoria, TX

I strongly support HB900 because it prohibits harmful, sexually explicit materials in public schools.

Heather Roell
Self. Freelancer
Austin, TX

I am against this bill. Please vote no. Please allow librarians to do their job. They are HIGHLY trained and educated in this field. Also, please allow school districts to have their own process for regulating books.

Jacqueline Ruggeri, Ms.
Self-Business Owner and former educator
Conroe, TX

I strongly support Bill HB 900 which would prohibit obscene, inappropriate, vulgar books in our schools and remove them permanently.

Heather Swanner, Librarian
Self
FRIENDSWOOD, TX

I support Texas school librarians who are highly trained professional educators that select books based on local policies, approved by our school board. I trust school librarians, not out-of-state vendors, to determine if content in books is appropriate. And parents, not the state, are responsible for determining what their children read

Mary Jo Humphreys
self
Leander, TX

Please. I implore you to let librarians do the job they are trained to do so that they can support all Texas children. I support Texas school librarians who are highly trained professional educators that select books based on local policies, approved by our school board. I trust school librarians, not out-of-state vendors, to determine if content in books is appropriate. And parents, not the state, are responsible for determining what their children read.

K Shallcross
self, educator
Fort Worth, TX

I support school librarians and teachers—who are highly trained professional educators—to select books for schools, not out-of-state vendors nor legislators. Politicians have no business deciding who is allowed to read what.

Tom Nobis, Mr.
The Republican Party of Texas and Self
Houston, TX

Chairman Buckley and other members of the Public Education Committee

I am Tom Nobis representing the Republican Party of Texas and myself. I rise in Support of HB900 by Rep. Patterson with joint authors Chair Buckley, Rep. Burrows, and Shaheen relating to the regulation of books sold to or included in public school libraries.

This bill protects children by prohibiting sexually explicit materials in Texas schools.

It places parental consent into the law as it is the parents' rights to direct the upbringing of their children. This is stipulated in Governor Abbott's Parental Bill of Rights that Parents are the primary decision makers.

Requiring the vendor to place a rating system on the book assists parents, educators, and others involved in quickly understanding the content to understand if it is appropriate for children of various ages to read. It also requires the vendor to provide information on books previously sold or provided that removes that burden from the librarian and other school personnel. It also allows the agency to review the vendor's decisions and penalize them if they are not truthful and forthcoming with their answers. Any action that eliminates items that are harmful to minors is greatly appreciated.

I thank the author for including in Sec 33.021(c) the approval of the State Board of Education (SBOE) which is an elected body that is answerable to the voters.

I ask the author to consider modifying Sec 33.021(b) to remove voluntary,

Again, I support the bill and with this bill having 9 co-authors, I urge that you pass this bill out of committee.

Thank you Chairman and members for allowing me to testify to you today.

Sincerely
Tom Nobis
SD7 SREC Committeeman
832-529-7144

Dora Nava
Self
El Paso, TX

I am supporting HB 900 because of the education of my daughters, I don't want them to be expose and/or evaluate about a book with explicit sex content.

Mary McCleary
myself
Nacogdoches, TX

I am writing today to urge you to support HB 900 to help us get rid of the pornographic books that have been placed in school libraries all over Texas. I hope you have taken the time to research the books in question. As a university professor of 30 years, I can tell you there is not one redeeming quality in them. These are filth, not D.H. Lawrence.

They will have such a harmful effect on our children and young people that the cases of mental illness so prevalent now will become even worse.

Some of us as local leaders had tried to get books removed but there are so many that normal procedures are not working. We need your help.

Please find the courage to do the right thing for our children and families. Please support HB 900.

Sincerely,
Mary McCleary
Regents Professor Emeritus
Stephen F. Austin State University
Nacogdoches, TX

Colleen Pryke
Self
San Antonio, TX

I support Texas school librarians who are highly trained professional educators that select books based on local policies, approved by our school board. I trust school librarians, not out-of-state vendors, to determine if content in books is appropriate. And parents, not the state, are responsible for determining what their children read.

Adriana Ángel Mahany
Self
El Paso, TX

Apoyó firmemente la HB900 porque prohíbe materiales dañinos y sexualmente explícitos en las escuelas públicas.

Crystal Lambert
Self
Lucas, TX

Thank you for introduction this bill. I support limiting vendors that will not remove books that do not meet community standards.

Thank you

Katherine Hardy
Self
Bedford, TX

Librarians go to graduate school for a reason. They don't need Big Government looking over their shoulders as they do their jobs.

Daniela Lankford

Self - Librarian

Tomball, TX

I am a Texas School librarian and I support Texas school librarians who are highly trained professional educators that select books based on local policies, approved by our school board. I trust school librarians, not out-of-state vendors, to determine if content in books is appropriate. And parents, not the state, are responsible for determining what their children read.

Lynn Krasnow

Self

Austin, TX

I am the grandmother of students in the Austin public schools. I am the mother of two who were educated in Texas public schools, and I have always been a big supporter of public schools. I am extremely concerned that this bill will take important sources of learning out of the schools. I support Texas school librarians who are highly trained professional educators that select books based on local policies, approved by our school board. I trust school librarians, not out-of-state vendors, to determine if content in books is appropriate. And parents, not the state, are responsible for determining what their children read.

Melinda Fagin

self - attorney

Dallas, TX

Please vote No on HB 900! Local librarians should be making decisions about what is available and suited for area readers. Also, we already have policies in place for parents to opt out of material they don't want their children to read. Don't deprive the rest of us!!!

Claudette Gaither, Ms.

Self & family

Waco, TX

I thoroughly agree with this bill. Also recommended for the young, older & religious to view the life story of the late musical artist prince. I believe it speaks well as to what unnecessary, early & elicit sexual exposure can reap.

Alex Williams

self - Information Technology Specialist

Bastrop, TX

I support Texas school librarians who are highly trained professional educators that select books based on local policies, approved by our school board. I trust school librarians, not out-of-state vendors, to determine if content in books is appropriate. And parents, not the state, are responsible for determining what their children read.

Chris Hopper

Texas Family Project

Weatherford, TX

My name is Chris Hopper and I'm the president of Texas Family Project. For far too long the grossest content has been allowed to seep into our public libraries and this madness must stop... If a concerned parent has the guts, go to booklooks.com and find "Let's Talk About It." This book is evil and disgusting, it also happens to be an award winning Random Children's House Book... Please know that to not act on behalf of the innocent among us would be a hard pill for your constituents to swallow. Please pass HB 900 and protect Texas' kids.

Maggie Adams

Self, stay-at-home-mom

Nacogdoches, TX

Librarians are trained professionals who should be entrusted to perform the duties of their jobs without micromanaging over-regulation from radical politicians. Parents should be responsible for reviewing and filtering what their children consume. Not all parents have the same beliefs and that is a good thing. Letting the most fragile, scared adults limit the options available to everyone else is diametrically opposed to the foundations of freedom on which this country was designed. Please do not vote for this bill. If you do, you are infringing on the rights of all parents to guide their children based on their personal beliefs. I trust librarians to choose the books that are appropriate for the students in their schools.

Alyssa Sable

Self

Canyon Lake, TX

I support Texas school librarians who are highly trained professional educators that select books based on local policies, approved by our school board. I trust school librarians, not out of state vendors, to determine if content in books is appropriate. Parents, not the state, are responsible for determining what their children read. This is censorship and an overreach of the government.

Toni Fabry

Self--RN--Past Chairman Frisco Tea Party

Tyler, TX

I am total support of HB 900 and so thankful that Representative Paterson is taking a stand against our public schools giving innocent children access to such repulsive sexually inappropriate books in our schools library's. If a citizen was discovered to be providing this smut to children in a park setting they could very well be arrested. The same should go for schools, teachers and librarians who continue to expose children to such filthy trash. The work being undertaken by SREC Christin Bentley is a God send. I am proud to have her as my SREC for SD 1.

The following article will outline her efforts to clean our schools libraries up- <https://texasscorecard.com/state/texas-mom-sends-lawmakers-dozens-of-filthy-books-found-in-school-libraries/>

I fully support HB 900. Thank You!

Christopher Byrd

Self

Rockwall, TX

I strongly support HB 900 because it prohibits harmful, sexually explicit materials in public schools.

Linda Edwards

Self as grandparent and retired conservative

Fort Worth, TX

Books must be regulated to prevent pornographic and perverted material from being taught or made available to children of all ages through High School.

Mindi Penrod

self/housewife

Houston, TX

I support Texas school librarians who are highly trained professional educators that select books based on local policies, approved by our school board. I trust school librarians, not out-of-state vendors, to determine if content in books is appropriate. And parents, not the state, are responsible for determining what their children read.

Tobie Carcano
All school children of Texas
Denton, TX

Begging you to pass HB 900 to prevent sexually explicit material from being allowed into any public or charter school in the State of Texas. Not passing this bill, as proposed, would be an extreme violation of any oath taken by any State representative, the AG of Texas or the Lt. Governor or Governor of Texas. Thank you for doing the right thing.

Katherine Mesches
self/parent
Austin TX, TX

I support Texas school librarians who are highly trained professional educators that select books based on local policies, approved by our school board. I trust school librarians, not out-of-state vendors, to determine if content in books is appropriate. And parents, not the state, are responsible for determining what their children read.

Jeanne King
self, client support
Katy, TX

I am a straight white female. I was an early reader and read voraciously. Growing up in NYC, I read the New York Post and the Daily News every weekday. My father recalls me asking, "Daddy, what is R-A-P-E?" I don't recall the conversation. This tells me that whatever he told me did not negatively affect me. As a tween I read all the Judy Blume books. As a junior high student I was bullied mercilessly; Judy Blume's "Blubber" related to me as a victim of bullying. During a routine scoliosis exam, I was found to have a more pronounced curve and had to see specialists. "Deenie," Judy Blume's title character, had gone through the same thing and reading that book brought me comfort in case I too had to wear a brace. I didn't. While my mother gave me the "becoming a woman" talk, I barely listened. "Are You There God? It's me, Margaret" was my guide through puberty and my first menstrual cycle. In these books I found similar experiences and comfort. Recently I read "Gender Queer" by Maia Kobabe. While I understand homosexuality, I'm not quite as clear about what it means to be "queer." Reading that book helped me understand how someone might feel if they do not identify as straight or binary. It did not turn me gay, queer, or nonbinary. What it did do was educate me and open my eyes. This is the magic of books -- being able to learn about others, both those similar to us and those different from ourselves.

Books are magical things that can take us places -- Alice's Wonderland, the London and Paris of "A Tale of Two Cities," or Hogwart's School of Witchcraft and Wizardry. We can learn about real people like Abraham Lincoln, Juliette Gordon Low (founder of the Girl Scouts), or Derek Jeter. Reading Lauren Tarshis' "I Survived" books, one can learn about terrifying true events like the sinking of the Titanic, Hurricane Katrina, the Sept. 11th attacks, and the Japanese tsunami of 2011. Books can bring history to life.

I cannot imagine how I would have survived junior high without Judy Blume's books. I considered suicide and told my parents that if I had to go to high school with these same classmates, I'd rather die. Luckily they took my threat seriously and I attended a different school where I made life long friends and was not bullied, but rather accepted. How sad and frightening it must be for a student who doesn't feel like they fit in with their peers. But oh how wonderful if they are able to find themselves represented in a book, where they can find support, strength, and representation! We need to keep books on the shelves so that every child has the opportunity to find themselves or to learn about others.

I believe in the Golden Rule: "Do unto others as you would have done unto you." In addition, I find this to be the cornerstone of John 13:34, "Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another." Treating people with kindness and respect, this is what I live by.

I thank you for your consideration.

KAREN EDMUNDSON

self, retired Library Media Specialist

Angleton, TX

Materials in public school libraries should be selected based on the values of the local school district, not at the state level. Librarians in Texas are by law highly qualified with masters degrees and training in book selection for all levels of school, from Early Childhood through 12th Grade. Librarians select books for all students who access the library, with the knowledge that if a book is challenged by a parent or community member, there are procedures in place to review that book. Do not take the power out of parents' hands at the local level.

Jobie Hill

Self

Orange, TX

Agree

Summer Hudson

Self

Midland, TX

I strongly support HB 900 because it prohibits harmful, sexually explicit materials in public schools.

Sally Furgeson

self

Austin, TX

I have read the text of HB 900 and it very much seems a typically Republican we're-all-for-local-control-until-we're-not. The word "restricting" in Section 1 should be a red flag for any parent, indicating as it does that what follows is a directive that a commission and the State Board of Education (that is, someone other than you or your school librarian) will be deciding "standards" for what is, or more importantly, is NOT appropriate reading for your child. School librarians are the best gatekeepers for our children when it comes to age-appropriate books: they are professionals who know the students in their schools and can and do act as reading guides. In my experience, they work not just with children but also with parents to help select books that will enhance reading skills and help make enthusiastic readers of our kids. HB 900 is just a thinly veiled attempt at book banning.

Susan Griffith Griffith

True Texas Project

Corinth, TX

I would like to see HB 900 pass. I believe it's very important to protect the young people of Texas from having access to sexually explicit material in public school libraries, and public community libraries. Thank you..

Randy Collier

Self

Round rock, TX

Librarians are professionals with training on curation, parents have a right to review what their children bring home but not remove for all children.

Laura Smith
Self/Librarian
Webster, TX

I am the aunt of children who attend public schools in Texas. I support Texas school librarians in their selection of materials for school libraries. They are trained professional educators, most often with training as both teachers and librarians. They select materials based on local policies which are approved by their school boards, who are in turn elected by voters in their school district. School librarians support ALL parents in their right to determine what their children read. Due to their training, professional ethics and experience, I trust these school librarians in their determination whether content in a book is appropriate, not the state or book vendors.

As somebody who is a graduate of the Texas public school system , I am still aware of the great help that I received in funding books that matched my reading capabilities and interests and were also appropriate for my age level. I have major concerns as to what how this bill on the surface tries to make this seem like something to protect children, but that will in fact make books that represent t some children and their families unavailable to them in their school library. School librarians have zero interest in exposing children to content that is inappropriate for them, and this bill implies that the opposite. Please trust school librarians, their training, their experience, their adherence to their school district policies and their relationship with parents. Please allow ALL parents the right to choose what their children can access in a school library. We are an extremely diverse state and all taxpayers deserve the right to access books in their school libraries that reflect their story.

Caera Thornton
Self
Grapevine, TX

Please leave school library book selection in the hands of Texas school librarians. Librarians are highly trained specialists and educators who select books based on local policies, approved by our school board. They know better than unknown, non-local third parties, what books are appropriate for our students.

Margaret Fulgham
self/attorney
Fort Worth, TX

March 10 was the anniversary of the first book burnings by Nazis in Germany. It appears that you are doing the same thing. I would accept the opinions of school librarians over legislators any day. Some of the books that have been banned in the past are THE ADVENTURES OF HUCKLEBERRY FINN, DIARY OF ANNE FRANK and TO KILL A MOCKINGBIRD. Please stop this!

Crystal Doucette, Librarian
Self
Leander, TX

I support Texas school librarians who are highly trained professional educators that select books based on local policies, approved by our school board. I trust school librarians, not out-of-state vendors, to determine if content in books is appropriate. And parents, not the state, are responsible for determining what their children read

Amy Melhorn
Self
Northlake, TX

Please vote to pass HB 900 to help protect children in public schools from sexually explicit material. Keep it out of the schools!

Lillian Rountree

Self, five grandchildren and all children in Texas

Waco, TX

I support HB900 and the regulation of books sold to or included in Texas school libraries to protect the innocence of our children, to prevent their sexualization, grooming for human trafficking and unplanned pregnancies.

Vivienne McClendon

self

Houston, TX

I support Texas school librarians who are highly trained professional educators that select books based on local policies, approved by our school board. I trust school librarians, not out-of-state vendors, to determine if content in books is appropriate. And parents, not the state, are responsible for determining what their children read.

Paul Herman

self, Pediatrician

Austin, TX

Texans are proud, independent thinkers. To develop the ability to think independently, a person must be exposed to a variety of ideas and opinions on which to base their thoughts. A vital source of those ideas and opinions is books, both fiction and non fiction, new and old. Our children need direction, especially the younger children, to interpret and understand what they read. But that direction should come from family, or other trusted adults, not from a distant school committee or legislative body! If a librarian, or teacher, is not to be trusted with our kids' minds, they ought not be in that position. But if we trust them to be with our kids for 6-8 hours a day, 180 days/year, they should be trusted to choose books for the library or classroom, and be trusted to help kids understand what they are reading. They don't need a book publisher to put a label on a book, just to make it easier for someone else to decide who should read the book. Books need to be read, thoroughly, to be understood.

HB 900 should never pass out of committee.

Thank you.

Pamela Williams

Self

Cresson, TX

Please support the HB900. Our children do not need to be exposed to pornography in the schools!!!

Jose Salazar

Former Educator

Laredo, TX

I am asking the Texas legislature to support and vote for HB 900 that relates to the regulation of books sold to or included in public school libraries. I am a retired educator and former public school librarian. I worked hard to make sure that students had access to the learning resources they needed to improve their reading comprehension, extended their knowledge base, and supported the state curriculum. However, making pornographic material available to children accomplishes none of the aforementioned educational goals. Educational resources must remain relevant and age-appropriate. Text or images of individuals engaging in sexual activities or depraved acts are in fact harmful to children. I implore that you fight to protect children from this perversion and sex abuse disguised as "education".

Avis Bickham, Mrs.

Self

Orange, TX

Please vote yes on this bill . Our young children should not have access to sexually explicit material in public school libraries.

Claudette Gaither, Ms.

Myself & family

Waco, TX

I thoroughly agree with & to the passage of this bill. Also, recommend to all audiences viewing of the late music artist Prince life story. I believe it speaks volumes to the subject of the above bill.

mary drexler, Librarian

shelton school

Mckinney, TX

I support Texas school librarians who are highly trained professional educators that select books based on local policies, approved by our school board. I trust school librarians, not out-of-state vendors, to determine if content in books is appropriate. And parents, not the state, are responsible for determining what their children read.

I am a parent of four children and eight grandchildren. Books are personal. Books are discovery. No one has the right to decide what I, my children, my husband, my grandchildren read--this should be left up to the parent or guardian.

Donna Woolverton

self

New Braunfels, TX

Our local librarians are well-qualified to decide which books go in our school libraries. There are already processes in place for parents to opt their children out of checking out books they deem offensive. Please say no to HB 900. Thank you.

Emily White

self (web designer)

San Antonio, TX

I am a parent of students in Comal ISD (Bexar County) and I oppose this bill. I support Texas school librarians to use their education and judgement when it comes to purchasing and recommending books to our students. I do NOT want out-of-state vendors to determine if books are appropriate for my students. Parents (not the state) are responsible for determining what our children read.

Marj Atkinson
self, researcher
Garland, TX

I am a concerned citizen, academic librarian, former K-12 parent, and employee. School libraries have collection development policies approved by each board or school district they are governed by. They also have documented challenge policies for the materials in their collection. Requiring companies that sell books to schools to rate the books based on sexual content, based on some arbitrary or subjective rating system, puts an extra burden on the booksellers and the librarians selecting said materials. Who will determine what rating system is put in place and what are their credentials and experience and can we trust they have the interest of all students in mind or just a select few?

Librarians already have a process by which they select books, according to their collection development policy, which includes reviews by experts in school library journals and other publishing journals, as well as peers who have vetted the content as being appropriate. Library materials already have age or grade ranges attributed to each title. Still, even those are not exact, as not all students have the same experiences, maturity or reading level at a given age. The same would apply to ratings based on sexual content.

In my experience as a parent and librarian, children are very adept at self-regulating what they are comfortable reading or consuming. That is how they learn about life in a safe space of a book, preferably with a parent or trusted adult/teacher/librarian to discuss and guide them. The main question should be, will we put ratings on the content of the phones these students have on their person 24/7? They have access to all kinds of unvetted and potentially harmful content. Parents are hopefully discussing with their children the appropriate types of content they can consume on their phones, and should be doing the same elsewhere. Putting filters on phones is ineffective as students know how to get around them if they are determined. There are no educators vetting content on a student's phone as they are in library materials.

Libraries and librarians are not the enemies. Mature content has always been in school libraries. Trust the professionals to do their job and recommend and select materials for students, which is their job (given there are school librarians present. The number of actual degreed librarians has been cut from several Texas public school libraries, which is another discussion and concern altogether). School shootings provide much more of an imminent danger to student welfare than professionally selected library materials without arbitrary content ratings.

Thank you for your consideration in this important matter.

Matthew Wiggins

Self / Retired

Boerne, TX

I'm 100% supportive of prohibiting books sold to or included in public school libraries do not comply with the following standards.

The standards adopted under Subsection (b) must:

- (1) be reviewed and, if appropriate, updated at least twice each year; and
- (2) include a collection development policy that:
 - (A) prohibits the acquisition of harmful material, as defined by Section 43.24, Penal Code;
 - (B) prohibits the possession, acquisition, and purchasing of books rated sexually explicit material;
 - (C) permits the exclusion from a school library of materials that are pervasively vulgar or educationally unsuitable; and
 - (D) recognizes that obscene content is not protected by the First Amendment to the United States Constitution.

Thank you,

Matt Wiggins

17 Granadilla

Boerne, TX 78006

Chris Barton

Self; I write books for children

Austin, TX

I support Texas school librarians, who are highly trained professional educators, to select books based on local policies that are approved by local school boards. I trust school librarians, not out-of-state vendors, to determine if content in books is appropriate. And parents, not the state, are responsible for determining what their children read. I do not approve of the state government overriding the autonomy of communities in this way any more than I would approve of the Texas Legislature letting someone else tell high school football coaches across the state which plays they can and cannot run.

marianne vadney

self

abilene, TX

Have we learned nothing from Fahrenheit 451? Limited access to books and information will only hurt us as a society. There are some books they are not age appropriate, but instead of disrespecting our teachers and librarians who have gone through schooling as well as have a career of experience we should let them do their jobs. A prime example is the book "Speak" by Laurie Halse Anderson, it talks about date rape. Some would like to keep books that contain instances of sexual assault out of the hands of minors. Then how are the teenagers and children going to realize, like the main character in Speak, that they have a voice. The things done to them are not right and they can speak up and make a difference. Bad things happen even though we wish that they didn't, but how can we not give minors the tools to overcome them and stop them from happening again or hopefully not at all. Seeing terrible situations in the safe space of a book builds empathy as well as knowledge on how to recognize the abuse and get help.

Dede Fox

Dede Fox

The Woodlands, TX

As a grandparent of and parent of Texas public school educated children, and a public school educator (40 years), I'm asking you to keep the politics out of the library, and stop micromanaging them unnecessarily. This law distracts from some REAL issues, such as raising the basic allotment; increasing compensation for teachers and staff; improving school safety; and ensuring students and teachers have mental health supports. I support Texas school librarians who are highly trained professional educators that select books based on local policies, approved by our school board. I trust school librarians, not out-of-state vendors, to determine if content in books is appropriate. And parents, not the state, are responsible for determining what their children read.

Louise Rosen

Self/ NCJW

Austin, TX

It's I have been an educator for over 35 years. My daughter is also an educator. I am very concerned about the number of books that have been banned from public schools. Education is not indoctrination. Informing children about the history of our country (both good and bad) teaches children to make sure that history doesn't repeat itself. For example, banning the book: The Story of Ruby Bridges is not appropriate. Telling the story of Ruby Bridges is a wonderful way of teaching young elementary school children about desegregation in our country and how it was over come.

Having high school read: To Kill a Mockingbird does not encourage students use inappropriate language I,

Rachael Welsh

Self

ANGLETON, TX

I trust school librarians to determine what materials are best for their students in Texas, not out of state publishers. Librarians are highly educated and go through rigorous training and know what is best for their schools and students.

Fransara Shoultz

self

Waco, TX

I want to urge my Texas State Congressmen to strongly support HB900 because it prohibits harmful, sexually explicit materials in public schools". I can't believe our culture has reached this depth that we even need a bill to protect our children from this offensive material that is harmful to their health. I pray that this bill passes for the future of our children, families and ultimately our country.

Minda Anderson

Self - private citizen

Austin, TX

This bill is unnecessary, overreaching, and infringes on our children's intellectual freedom rights as guaranteed in the First Amendment and supported in numerous court cases such as Board of Education, Island Trees Union Free School District v. Pico (1982). Librarians are qualified to select reading materials and there are already policies and procedures in place to ensure that materials are school appropriate.

Nina Herndon
Self
Fort Worth, TX

Rep. Jared Patterson presents this bill as a "protection" for Texas students by "Removing Explicit and Adult Designated Educational Resources." While I can appreciate the passion and sentiment of Rep. Patterson to protect Texas students, I am unable to accept that this bill is an effective means of doing so. In fact, I believe this to be a disservice to Texas students, specifically women and people who belong to LGBTQ+ and BIPOC communities.

The belief that this bill is going to keep sexually explicit material out of the hands of children is laughable—sexually explicit material exists everywhere around us. Images from social media, a quick google search, a song that comes on the radio, advertisements in magazines and on billboards—all of this sexually explicit material exists with no context. We consume it—sometimes without consent—because it is simply part of the world that we live in.

That being said, I am not advocating for romance novels whose main purpose is to serve as a form of literary porn. Rather, I am saying that books that contain "sexually explicit content" as part of a larger narrative are so much more than the sexually explicit content itself. The books that are in Texas school libraries that are being challenged by parents are NOT romance novels. They are books that have relevant context, characters, and a storyline that is so much more than the handful of "sexually explicit" depictions. They are stories that allow students to learn more about themselves, explore learning about sex safely, or learn about real-world situations like rape, which unfortunately exist.

Furthermore, making book vendors hold the responsibility of rating these "sexually explicit" books, and doing so "appropriately" as Rep. Patterson explains in an interview with TPPF is problematic. By forcing the vendor to go on a "banned list and basically get the death penalty" (meaning they can't sell books to schools in Texas) if they rate the book wrong, this bill could create a level of censorship that is actually more harmful to Texas students.

Lastly, as a woman who is part of the LGBTQ+ community, I know for a fact that this bill is an opportunity for lawmakers to remove LGBTQ+ books under the guise that they contain "adult" content. Regardless of what your religious or personal views are about LGBTQ+ people, sexuality is not adult content. By removing these books, LGBTQ+ students will lose the opportunity to see themselves presented in the world—both through authors and characters—furthering a (very loud) message that being LGBTQ+ is unacceptable and wrong, which is far more harmful than any "protection" this bill could bring.

Thank you for your time and consideration of my comment.

Sincerely,
Nina Herndon

Judy Harris
Self
Richmond, TX

Banning books is a violation of free speech. Everyone should have the right to read the work of any author they choose. This includes children when supervised by their parents, not politicians. This bill Carrie's the extension of your authority way too far.

Michael Whipp
Self
Austin, TX

I support Texas school librarians who are highly trained professional educators that select books based on local policies, approved by our school board. I trust school librarians, not out-of-state vendors, to determine if content in books is appropriate. And parents, not the state, are responsible for determining what their children read.

Caitlin Dodd
Self professor
Grapevine, TX

Please vote no on HB 900. School librarians are educated and qualified to choose books for their libraries.

Leslie Ray
Self, Retired
Orange, TX

Parents should have the right to view books that their children are being exposed to and oppose sexually explicit material. Our children should not be exposed to this type of literature especially in public schools. Schools should be a safe place for our children and exposing children to this type of literature makes school very unsafe.

Mary Kay Henley
self
Dallas, TX

I am a mother, a grandmother and a reader. I support Texas school librarians who are highly trained professional educators that select books based on local policies, approved by our school board. I trust school librarians, not out-of-state vendors, to determine if content in books is appropriate. And parents, not the state, are responsible for determining what their children read. I find the suggestion that we put this job in the hands of vendors outrageous and disappointing.

Amanda Hunt
Self: school librarian
New Braunfels, TX

I support Texas school librarians who are highly trained professional educators that select books based on local policies, approved by our school board. I trust school librarians, not out-of-state vendors, to determine if content in books is appropriate. And parents, not the state, are responsible for determining what their children read.

Tracey Jalufka
Self
Yoakum, TX

I strongly support HB900 because it prohibits harmful, sexually explicit materials in public schools.

Nicole Kirkwood
Self
Frisco, TX

I do not support using third-party vendors or elected individuals that are not directly part of the Texas education agency or respective independent school district to rate or choose what books belong in Texas schools.

I believe we qualify, vet, and hire trusted individuals within school administration - specifically our valued librarians who are capable of review and curation of titles for their respective grade levels.

The process of peer review is not broken. The qualification of school library administrators is not broken. The micromanagement and unnecessary involvement of political agenda and misinformation is hurting our students. Our children are privy to more information than we could imagine, restricting the safe environment of their school library to find representation and discover outside perspective is not solving a problem, it is creating one. Bills such as this push young people to find outside sources and lead to greater misunderstanding. A child with knowledge is a future leader. Please consider that this bill does not have the child in mind, it is protecting adults from something that makes them uncomfortable as clearly detailed in the kinds of books they have chosen to remove from shelves.

Carolouise Ortiz, Ms.

Self/retired

Montgomery, TX

Please oppose this overreaching bill HB 900. Texas school librarians are highly trained professional educators that select books based on local policies, approved by our school board. I trust school librarians, not out-of-state vendors, to determine if content in books is appropriate. Parents, not the state, are responsible for determining what their children read. I am voter and a grandma of a very intelligent young man who attends a Texas public school, and rightfully concerned about the adverse impact of bills like this. Vote NO on HB 900.

Anne Russey

Self

Katy, TX

I am a mother to two elementary aged students in Katy ISD, and the product of public education in Texas. I support Texas school librarians who are trained professional educators that select books based on local policies, approved by our school board. I trust school librarians, not out-of-state vendors, to determine if content in books is appropriate. The power to determine what books are appropriate for each student should rest with parents, guided by professional educators and experts, not the state or private businesses. Thank you for considering my feedback, and for your service to our state.

Sheri Van Sickle, Mrs.

self

Inez, TX

I strongly support HB900 because it prohibits harmful, sexually explicit materials in public schools. This is necessary to stand up and protect our community's children and young people. This indoctrination must stop now !

Curtis Stanley, Mr

Curt Stanley Consulting Group

Boerne, TX, TX

There is absolutely no reason for our minor children to be exposed to the sexually explicit trash that many school libraries are now utilizing. This is detrimental to our children and needs to be stopped. Please support HB 900!

Jenny Bradford

Self, SAHM

Richardson, TX

I support Texas school librarians who are highly trained professional educators that select books based on local policies, approved by our school board. I trust school librarians, not out-of-state vendors, to determine if content in books is appropriate. And parents, not the state, are responsible for determining what their children read.

Susan Kelley, Ms

Self

Austin, TX

Retired Attorney and senior citizen here. Never thought I'd see the day in Texas when "Small Government" got put on the shelf by such proposals as this bill, empowering Big Government as the one to pick and choose what our kids will have access to in their school libraries, instead of our locally elected school boards and professional educators. Likely, this is one of those bills posing as "parental rights", but in fact runs roughshod over the rights of the majority of parents, who have no quarrel with what has been in libraries for years. If a parent or legislator is offended by a book, they already have the power to supervise their OWN KIDS' reading habits. To the extent that this is driven by religious beliefs about gays, (which my Christian denomination doesn't share) it also constitutes the state playing secular favorites and, once more, attempting to cross the line of church / state separation, a BULWARK of American exceptionalism. Last, but not least, Rep Patterson's bill is the essence of unconstitutional prior restraint of speech, since it appears to ban books that are not just acquired but maintained by the library, even if donated (at no taxpayer expense) by people like me who wish our youth to have a well-rounded education. It is striking that no HARM to kids has been alleged or proven to have resulted from books that have been in our libraries for years. The appropriate measure for the committee to take is to give this bill the heave ho, rather than pass it out and, yet again, make Texans look like idiots.

Leslie Flynn

self

Pflugerville, TX

I support Texas school librarians who are highly trained professional educators that select books based on local policies, approved by our school board. I trust school librarians, not out-of-state vendors, to determine if content in books is appropriate. And parents, not the state, are responsible for determining what their children read. By approving this legislation, you are taking away choice from parents and allowing people outside our communities to choose what is appropriate. School librarians are trained in book selection and should be trusted to do their jobs.

Brent Flack

Blanco ISD

Bulverde, TX

You have got to be kidding me! Censorship of books has always been the fastest ways to fascism. Why must we continue to go through this. As an educator it is hard to get kids to pick up books and now the ones they might read we want to keep them from them. How is this ok? Anything they read in a book is not nearly as bad as what they read and see on tiktok or snapchat. We can not hide knowledge nor be a society that finds it ok to limit knowledge. Please rethink this.

Allen Wiskera

Self, Librarian

Highland Village, TX

I support Texas school librarians who are highly-trained professional educators that select books based on local policies, approved by our school board. Texas school librarians are versed in the needs of their communities and work tirelessly to provide their students with high quality resources. I trust school librarians, not out-of-state vendors, to determine if content in books is appropriate for their communities. And parents, not the state, are responsible for determining what their children read. The freedom to read is a core tenet of democracy and guaranteed by the Constitution of the United States. Actions to limit these freedoms or prohibit the exchange of certain information is un-American.

Kathryn Gaston
self, writing instructor
The Woodlands, TX

As a concerned citizen and parent of children in Texas public schools, I object to the redundant implementation of new library standards when reasonable standards were already adopted in 2018. I support Texas school librarians who are highly trained professional educators that select books based on local policies, approved by our school board. I trust school librarians, not out-of-state vendors, to determine if the content in books is appropriate. And parents, not the state, are responsible for determining what their children read since policies already exist for parents to request a review of particular books or to have their own children opt out of reading books they deem objectionable.

Kathy Gonzales
self - retired teacher
Fairview, TX

I strongly support HB 900 because it prohibits harmful, sexually explicit materials in public schools. I am beyond horrified with the content that is allowed these days in public school libraries for children to get their hands on. I have participated in roadside protests of these materials and attended school board meetings where this content has been exposed. IT MUST BE STOPPED. Please support this bill

darren bailey
Self
Fort Worth, TX

I strongly support HB900 because it prohibits harmful, sexual exploitation in public schools.

Carol Doyen, Ms.
Self-retired Public Library employee
Houston, TX

I support Texas school librarians who are highly trained professional educators that select books based on local policies, approved by our school board. I trust school librarians, not out-of-state vendors, to determine if content in books is appropriate. And parents, not the state, are responsible for determining what their children read.

Gala Partlow
self
Richardson, TX

I support HB900 because it is in the best interest of our school children, my grandchildren.

Patricia Kapavik
Self
Shiner, TX

I support HB900 because I believe it is harmful to our children

Keith Uhles
Self Engineer
Midland, TX

I strongly support HB 900 because it prohibits harmful, sexually explicit materials in public schools. Movie theaters have an age restriction for who can purchase a ticket for R-rated movies because of the content. The FCC regulates what is on TV during certain hours because kids may be watching. Minors are not allowed to enter adult video or book stores or strip clubs. Books with obscene material should not be in public school libraries.

Pat Sanford
AAUW
San Antonio, TX

I support Texas school librarians who are highly trained professional educators that select books based on local policies, approved by our school board. I trust school librarians, not out-of-state vendors, to determine if content in books is appropriate. And parents, not the state, are responsible for determining what their children read.
I am a parent and a retired educator. This issue is very important to me and to the future of our state.

Abb Rose
self
Burleson, TX

I am appalled at the level of smut and pornographic material being directed to young students in schools today. I served on our school board in the 1990's and all we had to deal with was language in student reading selections. It seemed librarians has enough common sense to know this type of sexual content wasn't acceptable. I'm sure whatever rules you implemented will have to be clearly defined as apparently explicit means differ things to each person. It seems no one leaves anything to the imagination anymore.

Lorie Lipko
GOP
Orange, TX

Please pass this HB 900. Your face would blush as an adult reading these books that are available to even the youngest of elementary aged child. These books are creating a lawless, uncontrollable society with no morals. I SUPPORT THIS BILL AND YOU SHOULD TOO.

Lisa Sparkman, Ms.
Self
Pflugerville, TX

Librarians are professionals trained in collecting appropriate and useful materials for their libraries. They should have the say over whether a book is appropriate for their collection. The legislature is not trained, and not appropriately educated in this field. Ultimately, parents worried their children will read things outside the parents' narrow world view are responsible for their offspring's choices. Simply because a book is available in a library does not mean a parent has to allow their child to read it. Conversely, simply because a book is available in a library that a parent does not approve of does not give that parent a right to keep others from accessing that book. A publisher does not have to bear the burden of extra labels that are not absolutely defined and are not clear. These labels are meant to censor and harm a publisher's business. Vote against this outrageous overreach.

Linda Arledge
Self and rancher
Gonzales, TX

This bill is a must to deter harmful sexually explicit and implicit materials in our Texas public schools at any grade level. I strongly support HB900!

Ed Palmer
self, retired
Dallas, TX

I as a concerned citizen, parent and grandparent support our Texas school librarians who are highly trained professional educators that select books based on local policies, approved by our school board. I trust school librarians, not out-of-state vendors, to determine if content in books is appropriate. I believe that parents, not the state, are responsible for determining what their children read.

Mary Ellen Scribner
Self/retired school librarian
Austin, TX

I'm writing to express my thoughts regarding HB 900 (described as pertaining to parental rights, collection development policies and procedures, and ensuring that content in school libraries is appropriate for the students' age level). I am a life member of both the American Library Association and the Texas Library Association and the proud possessor of a master's degree in Library and Information Science from the University of Texas at Austin. As a retired secondary school librarian with more than thirty-five years (twenty in Texas) of experience in classrooms and libraries of public schools, Dept. of Defense Schools, and international schools, I have had the responsibility of reviewing and purchasing thousands of appropriate subject content and recreational reading books for pre-K through 12th grade. I have participated in the writing of selection policy and procedure guides for three schools which were adopted by the board of trustees or directors as the case may have been. Almost all schools have such guides as part of their adopted policies. Every librarian I have ever known or worked with followed these guides as well as relied on professional selection guides of outstanding and longstanding reputations. One of the best is located right here in Austin, Kirkus Reviews. The operation of school libraries is transparent with parents having access to any information they should need or want simply by asking for it. Therefore, it seems to me that the objectives of HB 900 have already been met thus making it redundant. I would appreciate seeing the focus your attention on issues such as resource allocation, adequate staffing (i.e., certified librarians and counselors in every school), teacher salaries, per pupil expenditure, teacher-pupil ratio, over-crowded classrooms, and the major concern of many Texans, the questionably legal transfer of public-school funds to private and for-profit institutions. Thank you for your service to our State.

Robert Neill, Mr.
Self / Retired
Waco, TX

To: Honorable Members of Texas House of Representatives

I strongly support HB 900 because it prohibits harmful, sexually explicit materials in public schools.

It is paramount that this legislation become Law in the Great State of Texas.

It is a fact that Texas is rich in many natural resources; but our most valuable resource is the children of Texas. I absolutely feel that a major part of your elected job is to protect Texas resources both Now and into the Future. There is NO better way to show that you understand the necessity of protecting the future leaders of Texas than by protecting the children of today. Stand tall and support HB900.

Lori Wilson
Self/Educator, Community Volunteer
Knickerbocker, TX

Dear Members of the Texas House Public Education Committee,

As a resident, tax-payer, parent, grandparent, and active registered voter of the Great State of Texas, I am writing to share my opinions, which I believe to be representative of my peers across this state, on HB 900. I am also asking you to support this bill and vote it out of committee, sending it to the full House floor for a vote.

While the debate will always exist on what is appropriate or inappropriate for minors to be exposed to, surely the vast majority would agree that it is a parents right, and responsibility, to make that final decision for their own minor children. HB 900 will establish standards and guidelines to protect and provide for those parental rights.

This legislation is not attempting to redefine what is sexual conduct, patently offensive, harmful material, sexually explicit, or sexually relevant. HB 900 follows guidelines previously established in the Texas Penal Code and Texas Education Code.

This legislation is holding the Texas State Library and Archives Commission, and school districts, to established standards. It provides accountability, as well as accessibility by parents, for what our students have access to in their schools. Rating material using these guidelines will provide a uniform measure that is easily followed by stakeholders. Requiring written parental consent for student access to material carrying the designated ratings is, unfortunately, a safe-guard that is now needed in today's world.

HB 900 is not a bill of banning books, or writing new definitions for controversial, and in some cases criminal, activity. HB 900 is also not a bill encroaching on a school district's decisions on how to teach their students, or a vendor's ability to sell goods. HB 900 is ultimately a bill protecting a parent's right to decide what is, or is not, appropriate material for their minor child to have access to through their school.

I respectfully request your support of HB 900.

Sincerely,
Lori Wilson

Marissa Dancause
Self - teacher
Laredo, TX

Rep.Raymond please support this bill.

Angela Morton
self, PA-C
Austin, TX

Dear Legislators,

I am writing to voice my strong opposition to HB 900. Our Texas school librarians, not out of state vendors, are qualified to decide which books go in our libraries and there are already processes in place for parents to opt their children out of checking out books they deem offensive. As a parent, I would like to retain control of what I deem is appropriate reading material for my children. I do not believe the state has the right to make this decision for me. Removing local control is un-Texan. Please say no to HB 900. Thank you.

Hilary Toma
Self
The Woodlands, TX

Dear Committee Members,

As you consider HB 900, please know that as a parent with a child in a public school in Texas, I support Texas school librarians who are highly trained professional educators that select books based on local policies, approved by our school board. I trust school librarians, not out-of-state vendors, to determine if content in books is appropriate. And parents, not the state, are responsible for determining what their children read.

Time by the Committee would be better spent raising the basic allotment for our schools; increasing compensation for teachers and staff; improving school safety; and ensuring students and teachers have appropriate mental health support structures in place.

Kind regards,
Hilary Toma

Mallory Friedrich
Self
Huntsville, TX

I am Texas-born and -raised, and now have two kids in the Texas public school system. I fully support Texas school librarians who are highly trained professional educators that select books based on local policies, approved by our school board. I fully trust school librarians, not out-of-state vendors, to determine if content in books is appropriate. I also understand that parents, not the state, nor any other party, are responsible for determining what their children read.

Bernadette Fikac
My family, I'm a mom.
Shiner, TX

I strongly support HB 900! We must protect our children from all that is not good , and noble, and true, and decent, and honorable.

Amanda Kelsoe
self- n/a
Eules, TX

I support this Bill. Please pass this, it is desperately needed. This Bill will help take some of the burden off of district staff and put it onto the book vendors. Some of the books that have been allowed into schools are appalling. Legislation is needed to protect the hearts and minds of our most precious gift, our children. We need to get rid of the obscenity loopholes that have allowed pervasively vulgar and obscene materials into our libraries and classrooms.

Donna McAler
Montgomery County Precinct 61, Chair
The Woodlands, TX

I am in total support of HB900. This bill is endorsed by the Republican Party of Texas, removing the porn books from school libraries and classrooms. These books not only contain obscene material that would be rated NC17 if made into a movie, they also help to groom children for pedophiles. Thank you.

Lindsay Nalley

Self - public high school librarian

Spring, TX

I am a public high school librarian with 13 years of experience as a librarian and 18 years of experience in public education. HB 900 is an unnecessary bill. The Texas State Library and Archives Commission has already created library standards that guide school library programs in Texas. Additionally, school districts have more specific board policies that direct library collection development (library book purchases) in their libraries. Texas public school librarians must have a master's degree and at least two years of classroom teaching experience before becoming a librarian. In addition to the classes on library collection development (book purchases) we took as part of our master's degree, we spend countless hours each year getting to know the reading needs and interests of our students and teachers, researching current trends in literature, reading professional reviews about potential books to purchase, and even reading potential books in our free time so that we can purchase the very best books for our libraries. We do not need to be micro-managed at the state level. Trust us to use our professional judgement and experience to build high quality library collections that meet the diverse needs of all of our students.

Furthermore, parents already have the ability to make the final determination of what is suitable for their children. Parents can review any books their own child checks out from the library, and they can set expectations for their own child regarding they types of books s/he checks out. There is no need to require written consent from parents about certain books - this would be an impossible task to manage at the high school level where most of us have over 3,000 students we serve with no help from anyone other than ourselves.

This bill would create more work for already overburdened librarians and educators. It is unnecessary and distracts from the REAL issues that you should be focused on—raising the basic funding allotment per student, increasing compensation for teachers & staff, improving school safety, and ensuring students and teachers have mental health supports.

Edgar Figueroa

Parent

El Paso, TX

These books are inappropriate for kids

Sierra Betancourt

Self-Iola ISD Trustee

Iola, TX

I support HB900 by Patterson.

Katherine Hagood

Self

Fort Worth, TX

My 13 year old granddaughter is in Fort Worth Public Schools. I have two more that will eventually be in the public schools. I also have other family members who have their children in the public schools. AND, know of many who've taken them out because of objective content in books or being taught by teachers. Our public schools are in trouble. I've read and seen some very disturbing material that has been placed in school libraries. There should NEVER be pornography in our public schools. I urge you to please support this bill and make sure any material of this nature is removed and no more is added. Please apply stiff penalties for any book distributor who sends this material and make sure anything in the school libraries is moved ASAP. Thank you!

Ellen Dash

Self

Hurst, TX

I do not believe books should be regulated by the government. School librarians are well trained and can be trusted to keep the children's best interests in mind when choosing books. Plus, they are the ones at the forefront, able to listen to the needs and interests of the kids. Please do not restrict access to books!

Miriam McReynolds

Self retired

BELLEVILLE, TX

I am for HB 900. As a grandmother and great grandmother, I am alarmed our librarian, school officials do not have adequate restrictions of appropriate materials in our public and private educational institutions.

Thank you.

Paul Feeser, Mr.

Self

Dallas, TX

I strongly support HB 900.

The essential mission of the LGBT is to sexualize children unto grooming and recruitment.

Their primary tactic is through indoctrination, and exposure to depraved material and media, aggressively furthering the purposes of pedophiles and enabling them to abuse children in spirit, mind and body. The American Library Association and the teachers' unions are complicit in the atrocity.

Pedophilia is historically the most depraved form of criminality. But even the worst predators did not seek to indoctrinate their prey in schools and libraries until the advent of the LGBT "movement".

Please help to rescue the children from exposure to sexual content. Please support HB 900.

Paul Gregory, Mr.

Self

Magnolia, TX

Please note that I am in favor of this bill. I have a grand daughter who will start school next year. I cannot drop her off at school to individuals who have been aware of the trash in our schools but who have done nothing to correct it. I will stand along side those who fight for the protection of our children.

Erma Richter

Citizens for Freedom

Beaumont, TX

I support Texas school librarians who are highly trained professional educators that select books based on local policies, approved by our school board. I trust school librarians, not out-of-state vendors, to determine if content in books is appropriate. And parents, not the state, are responsible for determining what their children read. Libraries, by their nature, allow for choice, and the state should not dictate the information made available; this is clearly a case of the government overstepping its authority.

Jennifer Peters

Self

Shiner, TX

Please pass all legislation to safeguard the innocence of our Texas children

FLOYD HERBERT

JESUS CHRIST

EULESS, TX

I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB 900 BECAUSE IT PROHIBITS HARMFUL SEXUALLY EXPLICIT MATERIALS IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

Stephanie Kinsella

Self - School Librarian with 2 Master's degrees

Frisco, TX

I support Texas school librarians who are highly trained professional educators that select books based on local policies, approved by our school board. I trust school librarians, not out-of-state vendors, to determine if content in books is appropriate. And parents, not the state, are responsible for determining what their children read.

Jaclyn Hall

Self

Kerrville, TX

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony. I am a citizen of the city of Kerrville. We have been trying to convince our librarian to do the right thing and keep obscene / pervasively vulgar material away from children. Several parents I know have been requesting the Kerrville ISD libraries to do the same. Are we really a society that is going to allow our children to view pornography in our taxpayer funded institutions? I pray that we will become sensitive to the importance of keeping children innocent at least until they're adults. Please stand up for the innocence of children and pass HB 900! I support any amendments that will strengthen this bill.

JERALDINE PORTER

Concerned citizen with long term involvement in the Texas School System

Fischer, TX

The Texas Education System has been charged with approving or rejecting books appropriate for our school system. Let's leave this responsibility to the professionals who are the experts on the public education system. A parent has a great deal of influence on the subjects their children are taught--help/guide them to making appropriate choices through their family values. I personally would not want my children's books selected by a person with a mind locked on one specific view that does not give them an opportunity to view other view points.

Raquel Rivera, Parent

Self

El Paso, TX

Yo apoyo fielmente la medida HB900, ya que prohíbe material dañino y de contenido sexual en escuelas publicas.

Sara Phelps

Self - finance director

Austin, TX

Our librarians are qualified to decide which books go in our libraries and there are already processes in place for parents to opt their children out of checking out books they deem offensive. Please say no to HB 900. Thank you.

Kerry Brosnihan

Self

Austin, TX

Members of the Committee,

Our librarians are qualified to decide which books go in our libraries and there are already processes in place for parents to opt their children out of checking out books they deem offensive.

Please say no to HB 900.

Thank you.

Deborah Zeman, MS Librarian

Self

Frisco, TX

I support Texas school librarians who are highly trained professional educators that select books based on local policies, approved by our school board. I trust school librarians, not out-of-state vendors, to determine if content in books is appropriate. And parents, not the state, are responsible for determining what their children read.

Angela Wagener

Self

Round Rock, TX

I support Texas school librarians who are highly trained professional educators that select books based on local policies, approved by our school board. I trust school librarians, not out-of-state vendors, to determine if content in books is appropriate. And parents, not the state, are responsible for determining what their children read.

Kara Baker

Self - Librarian

El Paso, TX

As a librarian at a public school, I am offended by this bill. I am a trained expert in selecting content relevant for the students I serve. I take great care and pride in the collection we have and know that many different types of students can find mirrors, windows, and doors in the works we have curated. I shudder to think what this blanket proposal will do to the student whose mother was just diagnosed with breast cancer who is looking for information or stories of survivors. Under this bill, these may be labeled as sexually explicit. Can students read a book like *Go With the Flow* or is talking about the natural bodily function of menstruation too sexual? Do we ban *The Diary of Anne Frank* because she was a coming-of-age girl who had impure thoughts about the boy she was sequestered with? *To Kill a Mockingbird* deals with the ramifications of rape. Is this too sexually explicit to have students exposed to? I would guess that *The Bible* would not be in question, despite there being sexual content throughout the work. This House Bill makes it sound as if parents do not currently have the ability to keep their children from reading books they deem inappropriate. This is simply untrue. Parents have a right to waive their children out of reading books in both the classroom and the library.

Before I was a librarian, I was an International Baccalaureate Language and Literature teacher in which I had an obligation to expose my students to literature from all over the world. We studied different cultures and ideas to gain a global understanding in a world where they would experience many different schools of thought and belief. This Bill would take away the autonomy of instructors to choose what literature is examined in classrooms. Let the experts do their jobs. It is what they were trained and hired for. .

I cannot even begin to address the ridiculous idea that book vendors have a responsibility to label their books, or they will be "given the death penalty". Again, as a professional librarian with a Library and Information Sciences degree from an accredited university, I am the one who has the ability to determine the appropriate nature of works for my school's collection. Making the vendor or publisher responsible for these choices is both lazy and unrealistic.

Needless to say, I support Texas school librarians who are highly trained professional educators that select books based on local policies, approved by our school boards. I trust school librarians, not out-of-state vendors, to determine if content in books is appropriate. And parents, not the state, are responsible for determining what their children read.

Tina Orebaugh, Professor
God's Digital Angels
Montgomery, TX

I strongly support HB 900. Stop Sexualizing Texas Kids

We must get all sexual explicit books out of our school system . Our founding fathers found our country to spread the word of God to our American citizens. We have become farther and farther away from this. Taking God out of our schools and replacing him with dirty filthy sexual books is the work of the Devil. Any person that thinks this is alright had been abused somehow in their past and need counseling. The schools should be teaching reading, writing and arithmetic or mathematics . These pornographic books have no business in our schools, and they are destroying our children and families.

Thank you for bringing this everyone's attention.

Sincerely,
Tina Orebaugh
Retired Professor at Lonestar College

Mary Hill, Dr.
Self/teacher
San Antonio, TX

Dear Elected Representatives,

I support Texas school librarians who are highly trained professional educators that select books based on local policies, approved by our school board. I trust school librarians, not out-of-state vendors, to determine if content in books is appropriate. Parents, not the state, are responsible for determining what their children check out of a library to read.

Thank you for your service to the state of Texas.

Sincerely,
Mary Lynne Gasaway Hill, Ph.D., FRSA

Cynthia Korth Waring
Self
Llano, TX

I am a parent and grandparent. I support Texas school librarians who are highly trained professional educators that select books based on local policies, approved by our school board. I trust school librarians, not out-of-state vendors, to determine if content in books is appropriate. And parents, not the state, are responsible for determining what their children read.

AND I VOTE.

CYNTHIA WARING

Cheryl Farner
na
Haltom City, TX

I support Texas school librarians who are highly trained professional educators that select books based on local policies, approved by our school boards. I trust school librarians, not out-of-state vendors to determine if content is appropriate. And parents, not the state, are responsible for determining what their children read.

Patricia Epstein
Self
Pflugerville, TX

Please register my opposition to HB 900. The wording of this bill is vague and porous, leaving far too many "caveats" for discretionary rejection (or approval) of books for our public education libraries. This is decision making best left to those who write and teach the curriculum, based on state standards -- not the State Legislature. Parents already have the ability to opt-out of certain sexual material, e.g., sex education classes, and may continue to do so without further intervention from the state. These decisions are best left up to the educators and the parents, not legislators. Thank you.

Amy Bermudez
Self
Plano, TX

Librarians are certified professionals. They take hours of masters level courses and are experts in their field. They are the most qualified people to make decisions about the books in their library. My school has over 1700 6th-8th graders, that's kids ranging from 11 to 15. Not every book is for every child. But a highly trained, certified librarian is best qualified to curate a collection. And parents who don't want their kids reading certain books should have those conversations with their children - not restrict book access to other people's children.

Marty Harkleroad
parent
Fredericksbug, TX

Please help parents know that when their children go to school they are not being exposed to the filth that is in our library books. I am fully aware that children have access to almost anything they want to but as a tax payer I should not have to pay for it, as community we should not have to fight this fight, and as a parent I should be able to send my child to school with out this worry.

Kathryn Kizer
Access Education RRISD
Austin, TX

This bill would take away local control from districts. The state shouldn't be the ones to decide what is educationally unsuitable. Our district library policy is sound and good. There is already penal code that prohibits explicit materials. "Vendors" is pretty broad. It would end up forcing Amazon to rate everything.

Nicole Hill
self
Austin, TX

As a Texan, I vehemently oppose House Bill 900 and all attempts to censor school libraries and classroom materials. Our public schools already have processes in place to vet and review materials for relevance and age-appropriate content. Bills like this further politicize our schools, at a time when they desperately need support. While some may look at banning "sexually explicit materials" as ultimately harmless, I am keenly aware of how that umbrella is too often used to censor books and media that uplift and support LGBTQIA+ students and their identities. Despite much hubbub, no one in the Legislature has ever been able to prove that there is a distinct problem with "sexually explicit" materials in schools. Instead, what I see is a number of districts struggling to keep up with politically motivated challenges of thought-provoking and important books. I respect hard-working school librarians and educators, and I trust their expertise in choosing age-appropriate books and media. I would ask the Legislature to do the same and reject House Bill 900.

Jim DeLong
Self
Fort Worth, TX

I strongly support HB900 because it prohibits harmful and sexually explicit reading materials in public schools.

Gloria Ambler
self, retired educator
El Paso, TX

I support Texas school librarians who are highly trained professional educators that select books based on local policies, approved by our school board. I trust school librarians, not out-of-state vendors, to determine if content in books is appropriate. And parents, not the state, are responsible for determining what their children read.

Anna Jenkins
Self/Parent
Liberty Hill, TX

School librarians are so important in our schools. They know their books and their students and can uniquely connect the two. My 14 year old daughter loves to read thanks to the knowledge and encouragement her librarians have provided.

Marie Moffett
Self
Sugar Land, TX

I strongly support HB900 because it prohibits harmful, sexually explicit materials in public schools

Jennifer Zarate
Self / retired
Waxahachie, TX

I strongly support HB 900 because it prohibits harmful, sexually explicit materials in public schools. We must protect our students from material that would be classified as lewd and pornographic outside of an educational setting. This is a violation of the spirit of the law that permits educational exception.

Marisa Wilson
Self, parent of LHISD school district children/ dental hygienist
Liberty Hill, TX

- School librarians are first and foremost professional educators that work hard to ensure that students are successful in their education.
- librarians encourage students engagement and success through books
- There is no one-size-fits-all library collection. The books in a school library present multiple viewpoints and lived experiences, foster critical thinking skills, and reflect the unique make-up and interests of the student population.
- All school librarians follow their district's collection development policies which are approved by the locally elected school board. They apply their professional training and expertise, and use their knowledge of community needs in selecting materials that will develop strong readers.
- Any state-mandated policy requirements must not impede a district's ability to craft a collection development policy that meets the needs of every student.
- Books are already rated by reading level and age-appropriateness and are purchased from a wide variety of vendors.
- As you consider HB 900, please ensure that school districts don't lose the local ability to build collections that inspire learning, support student achievement, and are tailored to the specific needs of the students.

Jonathan Campbell
self accounts manager at a dental office
Ben Wheeler, TX

I strongly support HB 900 because sexually explicit materials are harmful to minors and have no place in public schools.

Brooke King
Self - School Librarian
Humble, TX

Texas school librarians are highly trained professional educators that select books based on local school board policies in the best interest of their student population. Certified school librarians have a Master's degree with several courses dedicated to the specific task of collection development. School librarians also must have at least two years of classroom teaching experience. I trust school librarians, not out-of-state vendors, to determine if content is appropriate for their students. And parents, not the state, are responsible for determining what their children read. Parents are essential to students' success, and librarians encourage their engagement when deciding what is best for their own child. The books in a school library present multiple viewpoints and lived experiences, foster critical thinking skills, and reflect the unique make-up and interests of the student population. As you consider HB 900, please ensure that school districts don't lose the local ability to build collections that inspire learning, support student achievement, and are tailored to the specific needs of the students.

Carolyn Dower
self
Austin, TX

Please vote no on HB 900. Our librarians are qualified to decide which books go in our libraries and there are already processes in place for parents to opt their children out of checking out books they deem offensive. Please say no to HB 900. Thank you.

Bridget Brame
self
Georgetown, TX

Please vote FOR HB 900. My family and friends are extremely alarmed about the books and content found in public school libraries that are extremely inappropriate and obscene in the public education system. HB 900 is a common sense solution to increase public school transparency and support parental rights while protecting children. Thank you.

Eric Mata
Texas Organizing Project
Dallas, TX

Dear members of the Texas House Public Education Committee,

I am writing to express my concern about House Bill 900 and its potential impact on public school libraries and the education of our children. As a concerned uncle of Texas public school students, I strongly urge you to vote against this bill.

Public school librarians are highly trained professionals who play a crucial role in the education of our children. They carefully select books based on local policies approved by our school boards. House Bill 900, however, would take away the authority of local school districts to determine which books are appropriate for their students.

By requiring the state to create a list of approved books, this bill would limit librarians' ability to select materials relevant to their students and their community. This one-size-fits-all approach to book selection does not consider different communities' unique needs and interests. It could result in a loss of intellectual freedom for students.

Furthermore, House Bill 900 would significantly burden librarians who must review and vet all books, not on the approved list. This would divert precious time and resources from their primary responsibility of promoting literacy and intellectual growth.

I urge you to listen to the concerns of educators, parents, and community members and vote against House Bill 900. Let's continue to support our highly trained public school librarians and trust them to select books appropriate for their students and their community.

Thank you for considering my comment.

Elizabeth Goldberg, Ms

Self

Edinburg, TX

I oppose HB 900 or any other bill that bans books in schools. As a parent I believe school libraries should contain many diverse books and voices and decisions about which ones are educationally appropriate should be determine by librarians and literacy experts.

Mary Drexler, Parent, teacher, librarian

Self

Mckinney, TX

No one has the right to determine what someone reads. It should concern no other person. Reading is a personal endeavor. What are you so worried about?

Maurine Nichols

Self / higher ed

League City, TX

We need less government interference with reading and teaching materials! . Quit trying to legislate problems that don't exist. I support Texas public school librarians to select age-appropriate reading materials for the library. It is up to parents to decide what materials their kids can read, not some suits in the legislature. Vetting arbitrary vendor statements about explicit materials will just create additional work for every single librarian and school administrator. B

Lindsay Leslie

Self

Austin, TX

I support Texas school librarians who are highly trained professional educators. They select books based on local policies, approved by our school board. I trust school librarians, not out-of-state vendors, to determine if content in books is appropriate. If this bill is intended to mimic the movie or TV rating system, then we are assuming that books are not assessed and carefully procured by our highly educated and trusted librarian professionals and the school board is also not to be trusted. And parents, not the state, will always be responsible for determining what their children read.

Jennifer Vaughn

Self - Software Delivery Manager

Dallas, TX

As a parent of two scholars attending schools within the great Dallas ISD, I am concerned about HB 900 moving forward. As a parent, I do not want the state responsible for what my children can or cannot read in school.

I support Texas school librarians who are highly trained professional educators that select books based on local policies, approved by our school board. I trust school librarians, not out-of-state vendors, to determine if content in books is appropriate.

Becky Milligan

Self

Tyler, TX

I I strongly support HB 900 because it prohibits harmful, sexually explicit materials in public schools.

Robin Johnson

self

Houston, TX

I support Texas school librarians who are highly trained professional educators that select books based on local policies, approved by our school board. I trust school librarians, not out-of-state vendors, to determine if the content in books is appropriate. And parents, not the state, are responsible for deciding what their children read.

Navvab Taylor

Self

Austin, TX

Books are how we are able to learn about things we can't directly experience, whether it is through fiction or non-fiction. Our school librarians are professional educators and know what books their students need to read to help them learn about themselves and the world around them. Texans don't need censorship of reading material. If you don't like something, you don't have to read it. It is your choice. Please do not endorse HB 900. Let our school librarians do the job they are qualified for.

Bruce Burton

self

Austin, TX

I support, prohibition of sexually explicit materials in our schools, and also provides transparency and a penalty.

Thank you

Meghen Hiller

Self, Cpa

Austin, TX

Our librarians are qualified to decide which books go in our libraries and there are already processes in place for parents to opt their children out of checking out books they deem offensive. Please say no to HB 900. Thank you.

Kathleen Bryson, Grandmother

Bryson family with elementary aged public school students

Kerrville, TX

I strongly oppose this bill - obscenity, as stated by a past Supreme Court justice, is "you know it when you see it" and what is obscene to one Texan is art or education to another. The days of my youth when we sought library National Geographic articles with bare-breasted or nursing native women would now be removed under this absurd bill from library shelves. Nudity is part of basic biology education. The extraordinary lengths that Texas educators in the 50s and 60s went to deprive us of basic biology knowledge left us struggling in universities. Understanding the range of human behaviors protects children as innocence is merely ignorance and the ignorant are exploited. My grandchildren have adults extensively involved in their education and their reading matter. To censor my access as their grandmother to material that we grandparents and parents deem appropriate for children descended from geneticists and physicians as well as printers and postmen is an outrage. Defeat HB 900 says this direct descendant of Sam Houston.

Michael Garrett

Self

Garland, TX

I fully agree with this house bill & it's necessary need for Texas Public School kids. Sexually explicit reading & viewing materials should be in place for children. Social Norms may be trending to an inclusive mindset of a morally absent one. But, that should not include our children. Their brains aren't close to being developed enough to understand the consequences of that topic. Topic of sex, gender & including any form of identity.

Yolanda Murray

Self - Vendor of Library Books

Plano, TX

I support Texas school librarians who are highly trained professional educators that select books based on local policies, approved by our school board. I trust school librarians, not out-of-state vendors, to determine if content in books is appropriate. And parents, not the state, are responsible for determining what their children read.

Jenny Day
self/parent
Georgetown, TX

As you consider HB 900, please ensure that school districts don't lose the local ability to build collections that inspire learning, support student achievement, and are tailored to the specific needs of the students. As a parent, I am engaged with what my kids are reading, and talk about their books and often read the same books with them. School librarians are professional educators that work hard to ensure that students have success in education. They read and preview book synopsis to make sure of age appropriateness, connections to standards, content, and curriculum. All school libraries follow their district's collection development policies which are approved by the locally elected school board. They apply their professional training and expertise, and use their knowledge of community needs in selecting materials that will develop strong readers. Any state mandated policy requirements must not impede a district's ability to craft a collection development policy that meets the needs of every student. Books are already rated by reading level and age-appropriateness and are purchased from a wide variety of vendors. Again, as you consider HB 900, consider that parents and educators are the experts in this area. I do not allow my children to read pornography or watch pornography and see no need for this additional oversight when the expertise of the library professional, educator, and elected school board already have collection development policies in place.

JN Roach
Self (self employed)
Slake, TX

I strongly support HB900 as it prohibits sexually explicit materials being provided to our children in our public school libraries.

Barry Moore
Self
Waxahachie, TX

I support this bill. It is sad what is currently available to children in school libraries. I am for strong morals and strong families!

Melanie Ocana, Mrs.
Self, business owner
Leander, TX

School libraries and librarians are monumental for my (kids) middle school students. Not only are they exposed to a multitude of views and types of literature, but the personal relationship that is built with their school library and is formational. School librarians, have the ability to act as a conduit between reading interests, social groups, and academic learning. Because they are trained teaching professionals, librarians at great value to rounding out the full school experience for a student.

Chari Kauffman
Self - Librarian
Pearland, TX

I support Texas school librarians who are highly trained professional educators that select books based on local policies, approved by our school board. I trust school librarians, not out-of-state vendors, to determine if content in books is appropriate. And parents, not the state, are responsible for determining what their children read.

Theresa S Neman, Mrs.
Self educator
Spring, TX

This bill is a waste of taxpayer money and your time. The state already has library standards and policies.

Tackle the real problems: fully funding special Ed, the mental health crisis in students, teacher shortages, teacher retirement cost of living adjustment, gun safety.

Books are not killing our kids. Suicide, guns, and drugs are killing our kids.

S. Dwyer
Self, teacher
San Antonio, TX

As an educator in English I am appalled by the very concept of censoring books in public school libraries. It is not up to legislatures to decide what books should be present in school libraries--that is the job of librarians, who are educated in the field and aware of what the student population at their schools need. I absolutely reject this bill and all others like it, and you should too.

A Brown
self - mother
Houston, TX

I support Texas school librarians who are highly trained professional educators that select books based on local policies, approved by our school board. I trust school librarians, not out-of-state vendors, to determine if content in books is appropriate. And parents, not the state, are responsible for determining what their children read.

Laura Flack, Principal
Self-public school principal
Bulverde, TX

There is no way to regulate this and it directly conflicts with the current literature TEKS regarding reading classics such as Romeo and Juliet. Leave each parent to sensor their own children not others.

Scott Hommel
Lamar County Republican Party Chairman, Member of the 2022 Legislative Priorities Committee at the 2022 RPT
Paris, TX

I moved to Texas in 2020. I moved here thinking that Texas was a conservative state. I was told I should get involved. Well I did. As I get in deeper, I see that there are issues we must attend to. This HB900 Bill is a very important issue. We as adults must protect our children and the future leaders of Texas and the United States. If we continue to allow such a law to stay in place we would be failing them.

I am not about "banning- burning" books. However I am most certainly in favor of having these books in the Public library in the "adult" section. In no way do sexually explicit or pro pedophilia, pornographic books belong in our schools.

Texas is behind on this issue and needs to be leading and not following. It is amazing that we have books that if handed out outside of a school someone could be arrested for possession. As we see parents standing up all over Texas at school board meetings addressing this issue, you now have the power to stop that and side with the parents.

Some ISD's are using certain books that are "suggestions" and not required for AP English. One is the "Bluest Eye" this book is disgusting and perverted. If we do nothing here then all you will accomplish is the further "grooming" of students.

Do what is right and pass this Bill. SAVE our Children, stop the madness at school board meetings. Help teachers that do not want them and just want to teach. I pushed very hard for this to be a main priority as a member of the Legislative Committee, please don't let me down. Don't let the kids of Texas down. Stand up for them. Protect them, or we will lose them.

Thank you
Scott Hommel
Lamar County GOP Chairman
440-221-4447

Jacob Wilson
Self-CPA
Fort Worth, TX

I support HB900 and thank Representative Patterson for authoring it.

Carol Sheffield
Self Retired Social Worker
Austin, TX

Say NO to HB 900. Our librarians are qualified to decide which books go in our libraries and there are already processes in place for parents to opt their children out of checking out books they deem offensive. Please say no to HB 900. Thank you.

Katie Delamarter
Self-school librarian
Lewisville, TX

I support Texas school librarians who are highly trained professional educators that select books based on local policies, approved by our school board. I trust school librarians, not out-of-state vendors, to determine if content in books is appropriate. And parents, not the state, are responsible for determining what their children read.

Sarah Yeppez
Self
Spring, TX

I am a Texas school librarian who is a highly trained professional educator that selects books based on local policies, approved by our school board.

School librarians hold Masters degrees and carefully curate the collections for their schools.

I trust school librarians, not out-of-state vendors, to determine if content in books is appropriate. And parents, not the state, are responsible for determining what their children read.

Sarah Stirman
Self
McKinney, TX

HB 900 should absolutely not pass. As a public school parent, I trust school librarians, not out-of-state vendors, to determine if content in books is appropriate. And parents, not the state, are responsible for determining what their children read. It is fine for any individual to disagree with the values in any book. It is not okay to dictate what the entire state's values and reading selections should be based on your individual values.

Grace Garcia
Self / Holy Bible Christian
Victoria, TX

"I strongly support HB900 because it prohibits harmful, sexually explicit materials in public schools".
We have an Urgent Call To Action to protect children!

Support PRIORITY LEGISLATION: Stop Sexualizing Texas Kids is scheduled for a hearing on Tuesday, March 21st, with the House Public Education Committee's hearing of Rep. Jared Patterson's HB900 (previously filed as HB 1600).

Support: HB 900 creates mandatory library standards related to collection in Texas public schools, including prohibiting schools from possessing, acquiring, and distributing materials considered sexually explicit and pervasively vulgar. Currently, Texas only has recommended guidelines related to library collection policies. In addition, HB 900 requires vendors to label sexually explicit materials and issue a recall of sexually explicit books sold to Texas schools by September 2023. There is a stiff penalty to vendors who do not comply, as they will no longer be able to do business with any Texas school districts!

This should be strongly supported by all parties, parents, guardians, grandparents, aunts, uncles, etc... not only the Republican Party of Texas strongly supports HB900, and the Legislative Priorities Subcommittee: Stop Sexualizing Texas Kids to see this legislation become law.

Penny Greeno
Self
Rowlett, TX

I am a certified Texas elementary school librarians. We are highly trained professional educators that select books based on local policies, approved by our school board. I trust my colleagues and other school librarians, not out-of-state vendors, to determine if content in books is appropriate. And parents, not the state, are responsible for determining what their children read.

Judy Richter
Gillespie County Moms for Liberty
Fredericksburg, TX

Please pass HB 900 and stop the sexualization of our school children by regulating books in our school libraries and those sold to our school libraries, that are sexually and developmentally inappropriate for our students.

Latricia Jacobs
Self retired librarian
Nacogdoches, TX

As a former school librarian, I am disheartened by the poor quality and pornographic reading material available to our public school children. Children can check out books and the parents may never see what their children are reading because they are not required to take the books home. I hope legislators will put children first in the state of Texas.

Ron Richter
Fredericksburg Tea Party
Fredericksburg, TX

It is imperative that HB 900 get enacted into law to save our children and grandchildren from the perversion that is trying to invade all of our schools.

Thank you

Aileen Blachowski
Blachowski Family
Prosper, TX

I support the passage of HB 900 to a full floor vote! Texas public schools need book boundaries. Please include e-books, classroom libraries and add a strong enforcement mechanism to deter districts from ignoring the law. Fines, a right of private legal action w/recovery of fees/damages or even a restriction on a superintendent's ability to collect any contractual bonuses if there are unlawful books in a district library—any of these could be deterrents to non compliance. Conversely, compliance can be reinforced w/librarian bonuses.

Pass the Reader Act. Parents in Prosper have been bombarded by sexualization of kids by adults—and it needs to stop NOW! Restore dignity to literature and common sense boundaries in Texas taxpayer-funded school libraries.

Trudy Pellerin
SELF - RETIRED
Bridge City, TX

VOTE YES ON HB 900. STOP THE TRASH, THAT THEY CALL BOOKS, AT SCHOOLS.

James Ervin
Self, Student
Austin, TX

Our schools and librarians are qualified to decide which books go in our libraries and there's already processes in place for parents to opt their children out of checking out books they deem offensive or otherwise unsuitable. Please vote no to HB 900. Thank you for your time.

Loise Lane Balilis
Self, teacher
Mesquite, TX

I support Texas school librarians who are highly trained professional educators that select books based on local policies, approved by our school board. I trust school librarians, not out-of-state vendors, to determine if content in books is appropriate. And parents, not the state, are responsible for determining what their children read.

Rossana Daumas
SMUUF
San Marcos, TX

Say NO to HB 900. Our librarians are qualified to decide which books go in our libraries and there are already processes in place for parents to opt their children out of checking out books they deem offensive. Please say no to HB 900. Thank you.

Maria Person
self, Director
Austin, TX

Localities differ, so it is best if school librarians determine which books to have in the school library and work with local school boards and parents. Parents can opt out and keep their children from checking out content they find offensive. State control is ill advised, please vote no.

April Smith, Mrs.
Self- parent/ teacher
Burleson, TX

The Readers Act

I am emailing you to thank you for caring about this problem of inappropriate books in the public school libraries. My 3 children are now in private school, but this was a problem for us even 10 years ago, and when I tried to address it to the principal, it wasn't taken seriously.

I have seen how much worse it has gotten since then, and am appreciative that you are helping parents fight this battle.

Thank you!

April Smith

Cresencia Huff
Self, concerned citizen
San Antonio, TX

I support Texas school librarians who are highly trained professional educators that select books based on local policies, approved by our school board. I trust school librarians, not out-of-state vendors, to determine if content in books is appropriate. And parents, not the state, are responsible for determining what their children read.

Carolyn Nieland
- None -self retired
Alamo, TX

Librarians are well qualified to select books and related materials at local libraries, they don't need "Big Brother" interference!
Stop the big government meddling!

Denise Berry
self, counselor
Austin, TX

Our librarians are qualified to decide which books go in our libraries and there are already processes in place for parents to opt their children out of checking out books they deem offensive. Please say no to HB 900. Thank you.

Ana Rico
Self, student
Austin, TX

I am unequivocally against this bill. This is a blatant attempt to censor books in school libraries and create barriers to education. It also undermines the importance and knowledge of information professionals trained to develop library collections. The vague language in the bill is also of concern as it can easily mean that any content can be deemed "sexually explicit". Though this bill may not seem as egregious as blatant book banning, it is a slippery slope. Any content moderation is an infringement on our right to learn and engage critically with these stories. The state should not be able to decide what it deems appropriate or not, that is up to us to decide. Having access to books is essential in the way that we learn, and bills like this one removes any agency from not only librarians but the students themselves. Not to mention that these bills often target marginalized voices. Removing them is not only a disservice to our community, but also harmful. I implore you to stop these attempts to regulate the books in libraries, as they are nothing more than false pretenses to exclude important voices from the record. Allow us to decide what we can and cannot read. There are countless stories of people finding help through stories that may be considered "sexually explicit". This bill will have detrimental effects if passed.

Bruce Harris
self- Consulting
Dallas, TX

I oppose HB 900, which removes local control of library content from librarians. It also wrongly assumes there aren't already policies in place to allow parents to opt their children out of content they deem unsuitable. Communities need to have their local professionals make decisions.

Leila Little
Self, student
Llano, TX

There is no harmful content in our public school libraries. School library books contain educational, informational, and recreational content. School libraries do not contain pornography or obscenity.

Some school libraries may contain books that you don't like or don't want. Librarians select books to best serve their patrons. Please, don't hamstring our educators by imposing politician-created ratings on books. This only deters some books from being selected for libraries, and that's a librarian's job—not the State of Texas'.

The current uproar about banning certain books from school [and public] libraries is nothing new. The push to ban books has reared its ugly head with Harry Potter, Judy Blume, Kurt Vonnegut, books about communism, and the works of William Shakespeare. What makes this different is that the State of Texas proposes to intervene by legislating what books can go in a library. That's not just concerned parents—that's state sponsored censorship.

Current policies from TSLAC and the Texas Penal Code already protect us from obscenity and pornography. This proposed legislation, and others like it, only serves to hinder educated library professionals' ability to curate library collections for all Texas public school students. Please, do not provide unnecessary governmental overreach under the guise of protecting children. Books don't harm children. Censorship unequivocally does harm children.

Dixie Davis
self
Fort Worth, TX

I am the parent of a toddler who in a few years will attend Keller ISD in Northeast Tarrant County. For the last few years, KISD has been embroiled in controversy over its book-banning policies. Our school board claims that it wants to protect kids from sexually explicit materials but in reality, the vast majority of books reviewed for removal from our libraries feature black, brown, or Jewish characters; or LGBTQ+ characters. KISD even went so far as to ban all books even mentioning transgender people. This bill, HB 900, takes KISD's disgusting, discriminatory policies and cranks them up to eleven. This is a book ban plain and simple and it is aimed directly at trans, LGBTQ, and brown kids. Beyond that, it is an unfunded mandate and creates unnecessary, onerous extra work for our school librarians. I urge you to reject this bill.

Julie Rounsaville
Self grandparent
Grapevine, TX

I am a grandparent of a child that attend public school in Texas and a concern tax payer and concerned citizen. I support Texas school librarians who are highly trained professional educators that select books based on local policies, approved by our school board. I trust school librarians, not out-of-state vendors, to determine if content in books is appropriate. And parents, not the state, are responsible for determining what their children read.

#txlege #righttoreadtx #atx #htx #satx #dtx #takeaction

Peyton Mahlen
Self-Teacher
Leander, TX

I am an educator and I can tell you for certain there is no one-size-fits-all library collection. The books in a school library present multiple viewpoints and lived experiences, foster critical thinking skills, and reflect the unique make-up and interests of the student population. The library is a safe place for students to read about their interests and get lost in the amazing world that stories can tell. The beauty in a library is the CHOICE to read what they want and it is selected per individual and not forced upon them. Having books that range in topics and genres help students learn more about themselves and learn empathy for those who are not like them. This should not be limited by what you deem right amongst children that can make their own choice and also governed by what is at home as well. This is not a choice that you should make for others.

Katherine Dombrowski
Self
Austin, TX

Please vote no on HB 900. Our librarians are qualified to decide which books go in our libraries and there are already processes in place for parents to opt their children out of checking out books they deem offensive. Thank you.

Thomas Nieland
- None -self retired
Alamo, TX

Stop the attempt to interfere with local librarians, they're well qualified to select appropriate books and other materials for patrons of all ages! Stop the big government/"Big Brother" interference!

Mary Goerner
Self/Retired
Hallettsville, TX

I strongly support HB900 because it prohibits harmful, sexually explicit materials from getting into our public school libraries and into the hands of innocent children attending public schools.

William Ross Pumfrey
Self/retired
Austin, TX

I urge the committee members to vote "no" on HB 900.

It is a natural human tendency to not want to deal with, or talk about, people who are different from us. And of course the "us" can be different for different people, depending on race, religion, sexual orientation, and other factors. In my lifetime, which is now more than 76 years, I have seen most people become more and more accepting of differences. There is no reason that young people need to be sheltered from these differences, or to be sheltered from the human experience. Young people need to have access to books about the differences, because some of those differences may reflect their own experience. There is no reason for us to censor books in the way that HB 900 aspire. I understand that sex and sexual identification is a profound experience, and so talking about it is very scary to a lot of people. We should be able to talk about it objectively and to understand that it is much more complicated than we thought years ago.

Thank you for your attention.

MARY PAT WEEDMAN
SELF MOM
MIDLAND, TX

I STRONGLY, STRONGLY SUPPORT HB 900!! It protects our children and grandchildren from harmful and sexually explicit materials in public schools. Please vote YES for HB 900!!!

Laurie Eder
Self
Victoria, TX

I strongly support HB900 because it prohibits harmful, sexually explicit materials in public schools which continue to invade our schools under the guise of health and wellness. It's time to stop.

David Pollard, Mr.
self
North Richland Hills, TX

Say NO to HB 900. Our librarians are qualified to decide which books go in our libraries and there are already processes in place for parents to opt their children out of checking out books they deem offensive. Please say no to HB 900. Thank you.

Deborah Hall
Students Need Libraries
Houston, TX

We need more information not less. Groups which are actively working to ban books and materials in our institutions of learning are misguided. The current campaign to restrict information and ban books is unnecessary. Schools, university libraries, and public libraries provide access to books and data that is useful and needed to support student learning. As someone who has worked in all three of these institutions, I can say that care and consideration is taken to provide the books and data that is accurate and age appropriate. In schools and public libraries, parents have always had the right to restrict materials which they deem inappropriate for their child. Some families are very conservative and they have the right to follow that philosophy. Let them restrict the reading of their own children. They should not have the right to restrict access of others. HB 900 addresses sexually explicit material. That has historically been hard to come up with a definition that all people can support. We do not need HB 900. We are already protected by selection policies and well trained educators who can follow the selection policy of the institution they serve. We can move on to more important concerns like health and safety.

Carolynn Waites
Self
Manvel, TX

I support Texas school librarians who are highly trained professional educators that select books based on local policies, approved by our school board. I trust school librarians, not out-of-state vendors, to determine if content in books is appropriate. And parents, not the state, are responsible for determining what their children read. I am a concerned citizen and a public librarian. The government should never be allowed to dictate what books children are allowed to read. Parents are the only ones who should make that decision. Just because you don't agree with the material, doesn't mean that another parent or child shouldn't have access to that material. Censorship is a form of repression.

Carol Parsley
Self
Vidor, TX

I support this bill for the safety of our children. I recommend remedy for those who do not abide by this bill.

Mary Werner
American Association of University Women
Cedar Park, TX

I am in opposition to any restrictions imposed on schools -- specifically impacting teachers, librarians, and students -- with the intent of regulating the books sold to or included in public school libraries, and that go beyond any standards currently in place. As a grandparent of a student currently enrolled in a public charter school in Austin, I already see the breadth and depth of his knowledge of the world around him even as an 8-year-old in the 2nd grade. He attends a very diverse school both racially, ethnically and socially. His classmates are of every religion; some of them have parents who are same-sex couples. To him, these friends' lives reflect all that is "normal" in his world. My grandson knows these students not only as classmates, but as friends who are kind, considerate and respectful of each other. If there are differences he doesn't understand, he knows where he can go for information -- the library, his teacher, or his family. Imposing rating systems for books that are already well-researched and approved by educators restricts his access to this information, as it appears to be legislative overreach intended to limit what students can safely and freely access in libraries and classrooms. These materials can improve their understanding of the world, their acceptance of differences, and their ability to navigate their future paths. Although parents should be paying attention to the materials available for their students at school and respectfully requesting exemptions for them if they feel a particular book is inappropriate for their student, I DO NOT think that parents or government officials -- those not specifically in the field of public education -- should have the right and/or authority to dictate what the schools themselves have carefully reviewed and selected. Rating systems are overtly subjective at best, and generally guided by personal bias and a strong degree of over-protectiveness of students who no doubt already have free and easy access to a variety of social media channels. Shielding them from the reality of past history and the world today negatively impacts their ability to become successful adults in our society. Give all students the chance to study, investigate and learn about our cultural and societal similarities and differences, our faults and strengths. This bill would accomplish the opposite, and I ask that it be dropped from consideration. Thank you.

Vanessa Oliver
Self
Dallas, TX

Students should be granted the right to decide what they read from a library with books approved by certified librarians who follow a thorough vetting process. What one student wants to read is not what another student wants to read. Books should represent the diversity of their readers.

Lia Rosen
Self
Austin, TX

I'm very concerned about this bill. As a former educator and a parent this type of regulation is troublesome and will create a society where children only understand a single story. Single stories are dangerous as they do not allow children to experience the larger world around them. Also, Librarians enjoy their jobs because they get the chance to show readers about the beautiful world around them- regulating books will take the passion out of being a librarian.

Jolie Jennings
self- school librarian
Liberty Hill, TX

In Texas, school librarians are certified teachers who hold a Master's degree in Library Science, and must pass a state certification exam. Collection development and the selection of library materials is a large part of the training and skills required to be a librarian. We are trained professionals who understand the needs of our students, school staff, and communities.

Librarians currently follow district collection development policies that are approved by the local school board. We consult reviews in professional journals to make purchasing decisions, where books are already categorized by age or grade level. Librarians take particular campus demographics and needs, as well as the state standards, into consideration when purchasing books.

As you consider HB 900, please keep in mind that librarians strive to build library collections that reflect the experiences of our patrons, encourage empathy and understanding, and foster critical thinking.

Rochelle Wells

Self

Llano, TX

Prohibit sexually explicit materials in Texas schools.

Protect our children.

Sunny Denmon, Ms

AFT

Houston, TX

Every year the curriculum changes. As a teacher I know that changing a major system every year is bad business. The teachers have to restructure and scaffold their work and this is a lot of time and stress, which is why teachers are leaving. The people who are banning books are washing out important realities of history and evolution, evolution of the humans we are destined to be. Please take politicians out of our classrooms.

Hayden Cohen

SEAT (Students Engaged in Advancing Texas)

Houston, TX

As a student, I oppose this bill. It's an awful bill to limit the diverse books that are so essential for representing students vast experiences in the books they read. The notion that there's is elicited content in these books is completely made up due to the extensive vetting process that librarians and teacher go through when deciding what's included in their libraries. Teachers and librarians know what's best for their students so let them decide, not politicians. Censoring what's on bookshelves is the first steps to a fascist government. Next thing you know we'll be burning books like the Nazis. Don't be like the nazis and allow students to read the books that represent themselves and allow them to learn about the different cultural experiences of their peers. **OPPOSE THIS BILL!!**

Aimee Bartis

Texans for the Right to Read

Rowlett, TX

I believe school librarians have the expertise necessary to choose books for their schools. Texas schools are to be locally controlled, let the locally hired and trusted librarian choose books for their students. Out of state book publishers are not the right people to rate books. Different communities have different tolerances. Keep control of Texas school libraries with the locally elected school boards

Ralph Huffman

Self - Retired

Frisco, TX

I strongly support HB900. It is an excellent solution to prohibit harmful and sexually explicit materials in public schools.

Elizabeth Alanis

Parent of students in public education

Houston, TX

I support Texas school librarians who are highly trained professional educators that select books based on local policies, approved by our school board. I trust school librarians, not out-of-state vendors, to determine if content in books is appropriate. And parents, not the state, are responsible for determining what their children read. If you believe in parental rights, allow the parent to choose the books their child can read. If you believe in the first amendment, allow Texans to practice free speech and choose the books they want to read.

William Fitch
Retired
Kerrville, TX

How is this educating our children, and in my case, my grand-children... I'll tell you how... Once these kids start getting this garbage in their heads... it does not go away.... this changes their brain function when anything sexual or even just suggestive, comes in their mental or physical view.

Please don't let our current and upcoming generation of kids suffer from this degradation.

Shannon Huff
Self
Cedar Park, TX

Please say NO to HB 900. Our family enjoys our local library regularly. I trust our librarians to choose which books go in our library. Frankly it scares me that the state is trying to take control of something that has been handled to my satisfaction locally. As a library enthusiast I am quite aware that there are already processes in place for me to opt my children out of checking out books I think they shouldn't read. Please say no to HB 900.

Shaun McBride
Self
Sherman, TX

I am a parent and educator and I support Texas school librarians who are highly trained professional educators that select books based on local policies, approved by our school board. I trust school librarians, not out-of-state vendors, to determine if content in books is appropriate. And parents, not the state, are responsible for determining what their children read.

Bernadine Nowell
Our children
Austin, TX

Our librarians are qualified to decide which books go in our libraries and there are already processes in place for parents to opt their children out of checking out books they deem offensive. Please say no to HB 900. Thank you.

Rachel Rosen
Self
Austin, TX

I'm very concerned about this bill. As a former teacher and school administrator this type of regulation is not helpful. Librarians need MORE support not more scrutiny. Kids need access to a diverse array of perspectives and backgrounds in their books, and it's harmful to regulate books like this bill is proposing.

Claudia Turcott
Self/ homemaker
Katy, TX

I fully support this bill. Children should be protected from explicit sexual material in their school libraries.

Holly Moudy
Swlf
Franklin, TX

I strongly support HB 900 because it prohibits harmful, sexually explicit materials in public schools.

Jeremy Rogers

Myself and my family.

Lantana, TX

Pass this bill now !!! Texas is and will always be the light by which a dark world can see the path out of this downward spiral of woke insanity. Texans are watching. Texans are taking note of how each elected official casts their vote. If not approved, there WILL be consequences for those who voted no. This will be your last term in office. Promises kept.

Cindy Wright

Self

Richardson, TX

I am a concerned citizen who has young adult children that attended Texas public schools. I fully support public schools and those teachers and librarians who have chosen to work in public schools. Parents, not the state, are responsible for determining what their children read. I support school librarians who are highly trained professional educators that select books based on local policies, approved by our school board. I trust school librarians, not out-of-state vendors, to determine if content in books is appropriate.

Connor Farner

N/A

Haltom City, TX

I support Texas school librarians who are highly trained professional educators that select books based on local policies, approved by our school board. I trust school librarians, not out-of-state vendors, to determine if content in books is appropriate. And parents, not the state, are responsible for determining what their children read.

John Marsh

Self

Abilene, TX

I support HB900 and my thanks goes to representative Patterson for offering it.

Denise Marsh

Self

Abilene, TX

I support HB 900 and my thanks goes to Representative Patterson for authoring it.

Berle J. Ice

Self

Abilene, TX

I support HB 900

Nesan LAWRENCE

Self

Austin, TX

Say NO to HB 900. Our librarians are qualified to decide which books go in our libraries and there are already processes in place for parents to opt their children out of checking out books they deem offensive. Please say no to HB 900. Thank you.

Tricia Kim
Public School Parent
Austin, TX

Public school librarians know their communities and are qualified to choose library books. Texans already have processes in place for parents to opt their children out of checking out books they deem offensive. Please say no to HB 900. Thank you.

Wendy Lastovica-Alvey
Self
Fort Worth, TX

I support Texas school librarians who are trained professional educators that select books based on local policies, approved by our school board. I trust school librarians, not out-of-state vendors, to determine if content in books is appropriate.

Thalia Miller
self
Weatherford, TX

I support this bill. I do not want my grandchildren to have access via their school libraries or classrooms to material that is not age-appropriate, nor do I see any need whatsoever, for the school to expose children to extra-sexualized instruction.

Elyssa McCuiston
Self/Teacher
Austin, TX

I am concerned at how loosely this law will be interpreted. The "community standards of decency" are to be decided by whom? It is especially important that adolescents have access to factual, complete, and scientifically accurate information about human sexuality, because leaving them to piece together fragments from rumor and the Internet can have disastrous consequences for their long term health. If this information is prohibited from middle school and high school libraries, where are they going to find it? 5 minutes browsing on TikTok or Snapchat can grant the impressionable teen access to untold filth and vileness, far more than they could ever find in a library. Also, it is far past time to acknowledge that homosexuality and different gender identities exist and are not going anywhere. Just because some religious sects consider them sinful does not make them so, any more than the Catholic Church advocating heliocentrism made it so. Trying to deny this or hide it just results in misery and confusion. Letting students find information about what they are feeling in a guided, healthy way, from reputable sources, is much preferable to letting them suffer in the darkness. Try reading a book before you start condemning them. And if you're dead set on banning any works full of deviant acts and perversion, why not start with the Bible?

Melanie Jackson
self
Richardson, TX

The state does not need to regular books sold to or included in public school libraries. Instead, the state needs allow and desire for school districts to have local control over the books in their own libraries. Districts need to be the ones regulating and putting processes in place, not the state. Districts are all different and have different needs. The state does not need to be creating rules for all. Instead, the state may try giving public schools more funding for more librarians or librarian aides in order to help them organize and create the libraries that fit their students' need.

Minda Caesar
self, Trustee, Spring Branch ISD -- I am testifying in my personal capacity
Houston, TX

Commenting in favor of HB 900. While I generally am a very strong proponent of local control, I feel this bill appropriately places responsibility upon the state to define and book vendors to adequately rate sexually explicit material, allowing parents to make the best decisions for their own children.

Lai Kwan Pei, Dr

self

KATY, TX

I support HB900. The regulation of "sexually explicit material" sold to, or included in, any libraries, not just public school libraries and charter schools. It should be expend to county public library.

Beka Larsen

Self

Commerce, TX

There are already processes in place in school libraries for parents to opt their children out of checking out books they deem offensive. We don't need government in control of books in libraries. Librarians are equipped and knowledgeable Small government. Please say no to HB 900. Thank you.

Colleen Benefield

self

Austin, TX

I am a parent of four students in Round Rock ISD, and I am writing to express support for HB 900. My interest in this topic is personal and began when one of my children came home from her high school library with a book she checked out on the recommendation of a staff member. In flipping through it, I stumbled across a two-page, extremely detailed sex scene. I asked our school librarian to review the book to determine if it met selection standards. Thankfully, our librarian agreed that this book did not meet criteria and removed it from student access. While I was encouraged by this outcome, I was baffled as to how this book had reached public school library shelves in the first place. As I researched, I've found multiple titles in our district's library catalog with similar levels of explicit sexual content.

Over the last decade there has been a significant shift in the Young Adult (YA) publishing marketplace. Publishers have marketed books with increasing levels of mature content to YA and Middle Grade audiences. Here is an article from the American Library Association saying as much: <https://www.yalsa.ala.org/thehub/2015/09/18/who-is-young-adult-literature-for/>. One reason for this shift may be the fact that, according to Nielsen, adults now make up an overwhelming majority of YA consumers. Put simply, YA labels or youthful protagonists no longer automatically mean that a book is age appropriate for minors. Increasingly, this category of books is being written for and marketed to adults. In years past, school librarians and teachers could trust that publisher labeling was a reliable guide for age appropriateness, but that is no longer the case. Further scrutiny is necessary.

I will always support the freedom of authors to write and publishers to publish, unfettered by censorship. However, this freedom does not mean that authors have the right to put explicit content in front of children. School libraries are not the same as public libraries or Barnes and Noble. School libraries serve minors who are in the school's custodial care while away from their parents and guardians. Schools have an ethical and legal obligation to place limits on the type of content available to children. This is exactly why we have internet filters on school computers. The shift in YA literature content means that school library curators must take a closer look at materials to discern whether they are appropriate for school-aged children. The burden to identify sexually explicit materials should not fall on parents. School districts must improve their vetting on the front end of the acquisitions process, before books are purchased and shelved. Not only is this fiscally responsible, it is the only way to ensure that our districts are actually abiding by state and local policy. This is not a matter of censorship; this is a matter of curating content for children. There is a difference. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Lindsay Dawson

Self; business owner and parent

Conroe, TX

I strongly support HB 900, it prohibits harmful, sexually explicit materials in public schools. As a parent to two young children, I am deeply concerned about the trajectory of our education system allowing this pervasively vulgar content in school libraries. It is shameful, you are the adults, and you need to protect my children and the other hundreds of thousands Texan children depending on you.

Chrysta Naron
Read the Room
Austin, TX

As an educator, mother, and Texan I beg you to stop this book banning process. I leave you with the words of two presidents, both born and loved in this state.

"Don't join the book burners. Don't think you're going to conceal faults by concealing evidence that they ever existed. Don't be afraid to go in your library and read every book..." ? Dwight D. Eisenhower

"Books and ideas are the most effective weapons against intolerance and ignorance." ? Lyndon B Johnson

Angela Smith
Fredericksburg Tea Party
Fredericksburg, TX

Representing myself and Fredericksburg Tea Party, we are in favor of HB 900. I thank you in advance for quickly voting the bill out of committee so as to make sure that this legislation is passed this session. No parent, grandparent or taxpayer should be concerned that sexually explicit material may be available to school children through a school library.

Joyce DeMasi, Ms.
SELF, Former Educator and Administrator
Van Alstyne, TX

Joyce DeMasi, Texas Resident
1825 Lakemont Drive
Van Alstyne, Texas 75495
(973) 864-4727
Re: HB 900

I support the prohibition of "sexually explicit materials" in public and charter school libraries. The fact that I have to write this letter is infuriating. Why would anyone want to present "sexually explicit materials" to children, anyway? Isn't that against the law? It is a sad commentary on the moral decline of our society that we have to create a bill against depravity, but we must persevere against the dangerous winds that prevail and want to cause harm to all children.

To intentionally corrupt the morals of minors is illegal, is it not? Beyond the laws that prohibit presenting materials to the malleable young minds of minors, it is an insidious strategy to further defile and control our youth who should be concentrating on reading, writing and math competencies and then joining their friends outside to play to enjoy childhood. Such distractions are in force to rob our youth of innocence – how revolting. Who could be so evil?

Is it true that the receipt of federal funding could be compromised if a district does not acquiesce to this outlandish and irrational idea? If that is true, isn't that blackmail? Aren't you concerned about the onslaught of law suits that could ensue as a result of this illegal force?

Back off and, "Don't Tread on Me" comes to mind. Parents have the responsibility to educate their children on such matters because parents have the freedom to choose their personal religious doctrine and moral code. What right does any entity have to promote materials in libraries that EXPOSE children to sexually explicit materials which may be offensive on several levels? Our focus in education should be on teaching life skills necessary for career readiness and success. Lord knows, the test score results are insufferable and demand our priority.

Shameful is an understatement regarding anyone who would want to present such materials. We must fight to protect children against forces that want to grab hold of their minds and hearts. How about we concentrate on teaching children to think, collaborate and problem solve? How about we model kindness for all and leave it at that? But, that wouldn't achieve the duplicitous goal now, would it?

I caution parents to stand strong against this wave of evil. To the people/entities who are pushing the agenda of providing "sexually explicit materials" in public and charter schools, I caution them to consider what God says on the matter of accountability:

Mark 9:42 states: "If anyone causes one of these little ones – those who believe in me- to stumble, it would be better for them if a large millstone were hung around their neck and they were thrown into the sea." Just think about the gravity of that consequence – no pun intended.

Cyral Miller

Self

Austin, TX

Please vote AGAINST this bill! This bill will ban books about LGBTQIA+ issues from school libraries. Censorship doesn't provide our children with information they need to understand the world; repression has never made the fact that people have a range of sexual preferences go away. Keep our country an open, free democracy and vote against government over reach!

Robyn Tibbs

Self, SAHM

Llano, TX

Let there be no sexually explicit materials available for children! Not even selected as educational material! Let there be no harmful material in the hands of our youth! Let there be no teaching children of activism, or hate of classes of people, or that biology is something of the past! Keep our children safe!

Mary Koch

Texas Unitarian Universalist Justice Ministry

Houston, TX

I am writing in opposition to HB 900 which among other provisions imposes state control on local public schools regarding what books can be purchased for local public schools. Local school boards already have in place policies which afford parental participation in these decisions . HB900 seems to fly in the face of traditional conservative political principles such as "the least government is the best government" and "keep governmental decisions as close as possible to the people affected." HB900 also requires parents to opt out of State controls rather than opt in! That is directly taking decisions away from parents who may trust their school boards and librarians and who will have to take specific action to empower local control . HB 900 seems to be to be an attempt of extreme control by a few Texans to dictate what information is available to students in our State and override local school boards, librarians, teachers and parents. Please do not support this bill.

Carolyn Nini, Ms

Self

Conroe, TX

I strongly support HB 900. It is absolutely imperative that the pornographic obscene sexually deviant books be removed from our schools. This has been a battle with our school board for quite some time. Giving our children access to these books is psychologically harmful to their growth and development.

Genevieve Garrison

Self

Orange, TX

This is regarding BILL 900 - RESTRICTING EXPLICIT AND ADULT-DESIGNATED EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES.

Please stop Washington DC from imposing these ridiculous requirements to the Texas Public School districts. Do not allow explicit and adult resources to be available to our students. We are a Christian nation and was founded our Christian values. The direction America and Texas is going with these ideologies and the agenda of the far left is appalling. Let's set ourselves apart and stand up for what a large majority of Texans believe in. It is not the garbage that is being allowed in our schools and in the school databases for everyone to find. Please stand up for true Biblical values and protect our kids from this nonsense.

Rodney Hromas, Mr.
Concerned Citizen and Retired Texas High School Teacher
Amarillo, TX

Dear Legislators: I support Texas school librarians who are highly trained professional educators that select books based on local policies approved by school boards. I trust school librarians.
I trust school librarians, not out of state vendors, to determine if content in books is appropriate. And parents, not the state, are responsible for determining what their children read. PERIOD!

Sarah Norris
Self
Austin, TX

This bill creates unnecessary interference into the professional discretion of school librarians, most of whom hold Master's degrees in their field. It creates costly content review requirements for publishers, and wastes state funding by requiring state agency oversight of submitted data. A vastly simpler, faster, and more effective solution than this legal remedy is for parents to communicate with school librarians, if and when a need arises.

Diane Duesterhoeft, Ms.
self - librarian
San Antonio, TX

I support Texas school librarians who are highly trained professional educators that select books based on local policies, approved by our school board. I trust school librarians, not out-of-state vendors, to determine if content in books is appropriate. And parents, not the state, are responsible for determining what their children read.

Alison Love
Self/School Librarian
Tomball, TX

Public school librarians are professionals with a bachelors degree in education as well as a masters degree in library science. We adhere to strict state and local guidelines regarding purchasing. We have experience as teachers and know the Texas essential knowledge and skills standards. We read, review, and evaluate sources before selecting titles. This house bill implies that accredited, educated professionals are not capable of following standards already in place.

A librarian's goal is to support and educate children in a safe environment. We do this every day, putting our reputations on the line in the court of public opinion. I ask you to look at the EFB local guidelines many districts have in place. A thorough read through will prove to you that all books are evaluated properly. I do not support HB 900.

Faith Sears
Self Sales
FORT WORTH, TX

I support Texas school librarians who are highly trained professional educators that select books based on local policies, approved by our school board. I trust school librarians, not out-of-state vendors, to determine if content in books is appropriate. And parents, not the state, are responsible for determining what their children read.

Jennifer Dickison
Self, Public School Librarian
HOCKLEY, TX

I support Texas school librarians who are highly trained professional educators that select books based on local policies, approved by our school board. I trust school librarians, not out-of-state vendors, to determine if content in books is appropriate. All students have a right to read diverse books of their choosing, and their parents should be the only factor in denying them this right.

DeLenn Maples

Self - Teacher and Parent

Houston, TX

I support Texas librarians, who are highly trained professional educators, to select books based on local policies and approved by democratically elected school boards. I do not want vendors, both in and out of state, to determine what is correct content for my children. There are procedures at every library, both public and school-based, that I can use to determine the content my children are able to see and check-out. I believe in the right of parents and guardians to determine, on their own, what books their children will be able to procure. No state should over-step the individuals rights.

Mary Hernandez

H.T. Jones Elementary School

Houston, TX

Page 1, Line 19 has the word voluntary. Will this actually be voluntary or more like a 'voluntold' basis?

Page 2, suggests that libraries do not already have collection development policies. We have all kinds of policies. If you asked a certified librarian you would know and understand this.

Page 3, Line 23 sets a deadline for September 1, 2023. Approximately how many vendors were contacted in order to discuss possible deadlines? This seems rather fast especially since the number of books that need to be screened.

Page 4, Lines 26-27 refer to a book recall. How is this attack on vendors and schools going to occur? Do schools pay shipping to return books that were already bought? Will schools receive credit to order new books or do schools just lose books and have to pay for shipping on top of it? If vendors have to pay for new orders, then they could possibly go out of business. This seems rather not capitalistic.

Page 5, Lines 3-13 will make sure that every vendor will be on the list. How many people have realized that vendors will be running from Texas?

Page 6, Line 9 says that a massive list has to be done by August 1st. That means people will be working over the summer. How do you plan on paying people for their time? Districts already cannot afford to hire needed help and now there is another barrier for education.

Page 7, Lines 4-10 says that regardless of the vote, this bill will go into effect. That does not seem right, does it?

Basically, what this bill boils down to is: driving vendors away and continuing to overwork people all in the name of education without including currently practicing educators.

The kinds of bills we need should be about having currently practicing educators included when creating these bills, doing away with the developmentally inappropriate standardized testing, and boosting funding for schools that is not contingent on anything else.

Joanne Letlow

Self - volunteer

Austin, TX

: I support Texas school librarians who are highly trained professional educators that select books based on local policies, approved by our school board. I trust school librarians, not out-of-state vendors, to determine if content in books is appropriate. And parents, not the state, are responsible for determining what their children read. I am an aunt of children in AISD schools and a concerned citizen.

Stephen Vernon, Librarian

Self - Librarian

Houston, TX

I support Texas school librarians who are trained professional educators to select books based on local policies - policies that have been approved by our school board. I trust school librarians, not out-of-state vendors, to determine if content in books is appropriate. Vendors are an integral source to begin the review process for well-trained librarians. These librarians also rely on respected journals and other librarians for reviews of books prior to purchasing.

In addition to that, who is going to determine the definitions of "sexually explicit" and "sexually relevant?" We already have a national standard set forth in a 40 year old Supreme Court decision - Board of Education vs Pico. Anything that goes beyond that will likely go against the court's ruling. Furthermore, parents and families, not the state or these vendors, are responsible for determining what their children read. The job of a librarian is to provide reading materials that will engage our students and build stronger readers who love books. Parents and families, however, are the ultimate authorities in which books their children are reading.

That is not something the state should try to legislate. Especially, in Texas - a state that purports itself to be this country's greatest proponent of individual rights. This bill is one more step down a slippery slope to further state control over the minds and bodies of Texans.

Lisa Robinson

Self/retired educator

Houston, TX

I am a parent of 3 public school graduates, grandmother of a future public school student, longtime public school volunteer, and retired educator and elementary school librarian. I support Texas school librarians who are highly trained professional educators that select books based on local policies, approved by our school boards. I trust school librarians, not out-of-state vendors, to determine if content in books is appropriate. And parents, not the state, are responsible for determining what their children read. This legislation is not needed and will just add an onerous burden on the already heavy workload our school library staff. Please do not pass this bill out of committee.

Rosalyn Smith

self

San Antonio, TX

If you believe in the validity of the Texas education system and American universities, then it is counterintuitive to not rely on those educated with a specialization in the field. It is a librarians job to provide educational, entertaining, and enlightening material that appeals to a variety of children. As a parent, I have no right to dictate what other students read - I will guide MY CHILD. Instead of micromanaging, the state should trust the professionals hired and let them do their jobs. I support Texas school librarians who are highly trained professional educators that select books based on local policies, approved by our school board. I trust school librarians, not out-of-state vendors, to determine if content in books is appropriate. And parents, not the state, are responsible for determining what their children read.

By allowing parents and the state to dictate curriculum and the corresponding resources, you send the message that education doesn't matter at all because you are not relying on educated professionals with specific expertise. Although schools cannot prevent some parents from raising racists, homophobic and/or misogynistic individuals, the school should not aid in the process. If America is truly the "melting pot," in which diverse cultures and ethnicities come together, the education system must reflect that. The subjects people are trying to ban are reality - uneducated does not mean the topics suddenly don't exist. School libraries provide filtered access to material in a safe way that I trust.

-

Wendy Stocker, Mrs.

Self parent and employee of Liberty Hill ISD

Liberty Hill, TX

School libraries are an essential part to learning, just as parents are an essential part of their child's learning. Our librarians at LHISD have welcomed parent involvement through volunteering, adult book clubs, surveys, and having an open door policy. As a parent, I am grateful for the level of involvement that I am able to have in my children's libraries. However, I know that I am not the expert. I did not go to college to become a librarian. I do not attend yearly conferences, video meetings, and trainings to keep up to date on the changing literary world. My expertise is in knowing my children. The librarian's expertise is in knowing the range of children who enter the library looking for a piece of literature that can reflect who they are, experiences they have had. Or a student who wants to find a world to escape to for a moment or two. These are important moments that should be protected by the expert in this field, the librarian. As you consider HB900 please do not limit the librarians' ability to create a collection that encourages learning, imagination, and discovery. By imposing state mandates on the school libraries you would be subjecting students to another broken standardized system. Learning experiences should be as unique as the students we teach. There is no such thing as one size fits all library. And frankly, I wouldn't want my own children to be in a standardized library, because my children are more than standard. They have dreams and inspirations that deserve to be fed. That happens in the library. They have thought patterns that need to be challenged. That happens in the library. They have fears that need to be calmed and world's that need to be explored in the safety of a front and back cover. Please do not limit my children. Support our librarians in their duty to provide a variety of texts that are cultivated for the community that they serve. Thank you.

Jeanette Watson

Self

Cedar Creek, TX

Libraries should be a safe place for children to be children. Libraries, especially school libraries, are not the place for books containing porn, graphic sexual content, and/or obscenity. It's a shame we even need a bill such as HB 900; but since we do, it definitely must be supported and passed

Greg Sells

self, federal employee

Austin, TX

As a concerned citizen, I support school librarians who are highly trained professionals that select books based on local policies, approved by our elected school board. I trust school librarians, not out-of-state vendors or pressure groups, to determine if the content of books is appropriate for our children. Parents, not the state, are ultimately responsible for what our children read.

Taylor Hotchkiss

Self

Lantana, TX

I am a teacher and parent in Texas. I support professionally trained librarians to make decisions on what goes into school libraries. I do not believe that parents should make decisions for anybody but their own children when it comes to reading material. Librarians make decisions based on the needs of their entire campus or district which can reach students from all different backgrounds. Parents should only have a say and regulate over their own child. I support school librarians and not third party vendors.

Patience Lange

Liberty Hill Middle School

Liberty Hill, TX

Parents are keys to student success and libraries help bridge the communication gap.
Public schools need the freedom to build libraries that inspire learning.

Randy King
Self, retired software engineer
Eules, TX

Honorable Members of the Texas House Public Education Committee:

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) is doing a better job of protecting children from exposure to harmful material than Texas Public Schools. Texas school libraries and some classrooms are filled with books that meet the definition of INDECENT and PROFANE (and sometimes OBSCENE) content that would not be allowed to be disseminated in public. The FCC regulates the public broadcast airwaves for obscene, indecent, and profane content between the hours of 06:00 and 22:00 due to the reasonable assumption that minors might be exposed to the objectionable material.

In addition, under the Texas Penal Code, it is a crime to expose minors to the obscene content that is depicted, if not promoted or glorified, in many of these books. Ordinary citizens and organizations are held to that standard. Why do public schools appear to merit an exemption from this law?

For these reasons, I strongly support the passage of HB900 out of your committee. Please do not allow our public schools to steal the innocence of our youth by allowing the promotion of sexually explicit and criminal behavior in materials provided by government.

Respectfully,
Randy M. King
Eules, TX 76039

Cheryl Jost, Retired
Self, retired educator
San Antonio, TX

I have grandchildren and great nieces and nephews in public schools and I am very interested in protecting our children. Public school librarians have very specific professional training in literature and collection development in order to earn their Masters degree in Library Science. They also must adhere to their school district's own guidelines when choosing books to add to their libraries. Different communities have different needs and it's absurd to assume that all libraries need monitoring by the state. We need to put our trust in the professional library educators who know their community's needs when it comes to purchasing school library books. Librarians must read professional reviews of the books that are purchased and those reviews already let the librarians know if the books is sexually explicit so we don't need a rating system by the publisher. You need to vote against this bill.

Joel Nalley
Self, Land Surveyor
Spring, TX

As a resident of Texas, I cannot abide the State's current Quixotic crusade against perceived dangerous content within public school libraries.

Parents have the authority to decide content acceptable for their individual families, but governments do not, and have never had the authority, to decide what books and ideas should be available to their populace. Public School librarians, who are experts in educational topics, with Master's degrees in Library Science, are the most qualified individuals to curate the collections that meet the needs of their diverse student populations, and proposed House Bill 900 (HB 900) will place an undue burden on their abilities to provide collections that meet the educational mission of our public schools.

History has never looked favorably towards regimes' attempts at repressive censorship, and proposed HB 900 will certainly not withstand scrutiny from ashamed future Texans as they study the current authoritative government's attempts to censor thoughts and ideas.

I strongly urge you to reconsider and withdraw all support for proposed HB 900.

Kymerlee Kettler-Paddock

Self, volunteer

Katy, TX

I fully support the efforts to remove obscene books from school libraries. Schools have the duty to safeguard children and this includes protecting them from obscene material. Removing books such as Gender Queer (and others) from school libraries does not prevent individuals from buying these books or even checking them out from a public library--but it does prevent them from being presented to children with the sanction and authority of the school.

I have heard several parents say that children can easily get their hands on pornography, so why bother removing obscene books from schools? We remove them because 1) it is wrong and destructive to expose children to pornography, especially pornography involving minors; and 2) as a community, we are allowed to have standards including protecting our children from having their opinions of and understanding about sex shaped by warped and distorted views of human sexuality. The latter is not confined to LGBTQ sexuality (as is often suggested by supporters of smut in schools) because heterosexual pornography also provides a warped view of sex and of the relationships between men and women.

We know that exposing children to pornography changes how they think about sex. This can cause children to sexualize platonic relationships and/or to suffer mental anguish as they try to reconcile all of the feelings, fears, and disgust that they are experiencing. The rights of our sons and daughters to childhood and innocence are greater than the 'rights' of adults to promote their worldviews and perversions to other people's children.

Allow our children to be children. Protect them from books that seek to sexualize them and destroy their innocence.

Linda Ricks

Self

Midlothian, TX

I strongly support this bill that would serve to protect children from exposure to sexually explicit material in school libraries. My daughters were avid readers, one finding her way to an inappropriate book that happened to be in the adult section of the Book Fair. She was in Middle School. Fortunately, she quickly shut the book and gave it to me, very embarrassed and upset that she had wasted her money and did not get a new book to read. I took the book to the school the next day and demanded her money back. How disgusting that adults want these books, but to sell them to a middle schooler is pathetic. Another inappropriate book was made AP summer reading material, which caused another discussion with the school. Take this material out of schools and let parents decide if and when their children are ready for "adult material."

David Matta

My family

El Paso, TX

I strongly DO NOT support HB 900. I am a proud Grandparent of four grandchildren, with three still attending Texas Middle and High Schools. We need to believe in and support our school librarians to continue making the right and appropriate choice of books for our students. Out of state businesses should not in any way be considered for this . Trust in our own Texas staff to do the work.

Lauren Wojcik

Self, technical solutions consultant

Manor, TX

This bill defines "obscenity" in an overly broad manner and attempts to unnecessarily limit acquisitions and access in our school libraries.

I trust our school librarians to make collection development decisions that are appropriate for their communities, and I'm not alone. According to a 2022 study by the American Library Association, three in four parents (74%) have quite a lot or a great deal of confidence in public libraries in their local school district to make good decisions about what books to include in their collections.

School librarians in Texas are highly qualified; in order to apply for Standard School Librarian Certification, these professionals must: hold a master's degree from an accredited institution of higher education, successfully complete a certification program, successfully complete the School Librarian's Texas Examination of Educator Standards, and have two years of classroom teaching experience.

Leave these collection development decisions to our highly qualified, highly skilled educators.

Kristy Oliver Jones

Self

Round Rock, TX

I am a parent of kids in Texas public schools. I am also a product of Texas public schools. I have always loved reading, and that is due in part to the access I had to a wide variety of books in my school libraries. Those books were chosen by librarians - people required to get advanced degrees to do their jobs. They are the ones who should be choosing the books in our school libraries. It is what they are trained to do. I trust our librarians to choose the books they deem appropriate, not out-of-state vendors and not the Texas legislature.

Charlotte Ballard, Retiree

None

Tomball, TX

Certified school librarians are trained educators, capable of selecting and deselecting library materials based on age appropriateness and School Board policies created and adopted by locally elected school boards.

Vendors are not highly trained to decide audience appropriateness. States have different opinions, so limits and labeling based on vendors from out of state do not make sense. Furthermore, communities vary widely in Texas. WhT one community thinks is not what all communities think. Certified school librarians consider the needs of their communities and their unique campus programs when selecting materials.

In school library policies, you will most often find a statement that says that a parent may select what their children read, but they may not make those decisions for the children that are not their own

I strongly oppose this bill. Certified school librarians are trying to meet the individual needs of their students. Please respect the work they are trained to do.

Tim Hayden

Self

Austin, TX

There is no reason for a double standard or redundancy in regulating public school libraries.

Texas has processes in place by which parents can opt their children out of selecting books they deem offensive. In addition, our school librarians are trained and qualified to determine which books belong on our school library shelves.

Please say NO to HB 900!

Dennis Tibbs

Self

Magnolia, TX

I strongly support HB900

Natalie Powell

Self

Midland, TX

I strongly support HB 900, because it prohibits harmful, sexually explicit or sexually relevant material in public schools.

Katie Willis

Self

Wylie, TX

I oppose this bill. Campus librarians (experts in their field) are the most qualified people to select appropriate books for school libraries. The state of Texas has no place standing between children and the books that have been curated by these highly qualified professionals. To suggest that providing access to inclusive, affirming, diverse library collections is anything other than an obvious good and educational necessity, is absurd. For the government to disregard the expertise of librarians and block children's access to literature represents a gross overreach and a fundamental misunderstanding of what Texans want- that is- for the government to mind their business and leave the libraries to parents and professionals.

Kristi Baird

self

La Porte, TX

I support Librarians who have studied and been certified by the Texas Education Agency and are the only ones qualified to decide what books should be allowed in or removed from a school library. I trust them to monitor grade level appropriateness and the abilities and interests of all the students at their schools. Parents, of course, have the right to control what their own children should be allowed to read. But another parent does NOT have the right to censor what my child has the right to read. I support leaving ALL of the buying decisions in the hands of the school Librarians without any unnecessary and arbitrary labels attached. They are perfectly capable of reading the book, or a synopsis, and deciding if it is appropriate for their library.

Suzanne Gilbert
Conservative Parents of DISD
Lantana, TX

I'm so grateful for this work, but I'm concerned HB900 language allows subjective "rating" system, subjective application of "pervasive" and "voluntary standards for school library services" (sec. 33.021 (b)). Our and other ISD's newly appointed ISD review committees are literally embracing, advocating and retaining harmful materials in libraries our groups have verified politicized teachers are distributing to children, and these books include those Representative Patterson publicly declared obscene and unacceptable. My fear is wiggle room language will be used by politicized individuals to continue retaining harmful materials in violation to Texas Penal codes - just as is currently taking place. Given the new National Library Association President is a self-professing Marxist publicizing her intent to use school libraries for cultivating social activism, it's critical to safeguard children and their education at a time core competency scores continue plummeting. Thank you for your consideration.

Sue Gamboa
Precinct Chair 1041
Little Elm, TX

I strongly support HB900 as it protects our children from exposure to pornographic materials. There should not be any books in our school libraries with sexually explicit content.

Any Huggins, Mrs
Self
Houston, TX

I support HB 900 because it will protect Texas children from books containing sexually explicit, vulgar, age inappropriate material in schools. Texas must protect children from pornography. Please vote this bill out of committee. The private school libraries contain the same sexually explicit material. By passing HB 900 for public school libraries You will help the efforts of private school parents to eliminate sexually explicit books as well. Thank you

John White
Self
Rockwall, TX

I strongly support HB 900 because it prohibits harmful, sexually explicit materials in public schools.

Esther Garcia

Self

Frisco, TX

I am writing to express my strong support for libraries and their role in promoting the right to read and the joy of finding good books. As a reader and a member of the community, I believe that libraries play a vital role in providing access to information and promoting literacy.

In recent years, there have been attempts to ban books from libraries for a variety of reasons. While I understand that some individuals may have objections to certain books, I believe that it is not the role of government officials to dictate what books should or should not be available in libraries. Libraries should be safe spaces for all members of the community to explore different perspectives and ideas, even if they may be uncomfortable or unpopular.

The right to read is a fundamental value that underpins our democracy. Access to information is essential for individuals to make informed decisions and participate fully in society. Libraries play a critical role in providing access to a wide range of books and other materials, including those that may challenge prevailing beliefs and ideas.

Furthermore, the joy of finding good books is something that should be celebrated and encouraged. Libraries provide a space for readers to discover new authors, explore different genres, and connect with others who share their love of reading. Banning books from libraries not only limits access to information but also deprives individuals of the opportunity to discover new perspectives and ideas.

In conclusion, I urge you to support libraries and their role in promoting the right to read and the joy of finding good books. I believe that libraries are essential to the well-being of our community and should be protected from efforts to restrict access to information.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Bonnie Lang

self- public school librarian

Austin, TX

My name is Bonnie Lang and I am an elementary school librarian in Texas. I am using this opportunity to exercise my civil rights and submit comments against HB 900 and bills that regulate books in public school libraries without consideration of Educators' expertise in their fields and the care they provide for the children whose minds we nurture. Patterson advocates for censorship and calls out "patently offensive" material. However, the notion of this and similar bills is what offends in its fear mongering. Despite the language of the bill, my library does not have and never has had "sexually explicit material" and "pervasively vulgar" books, leading me to conclude that this bill is a waste of time and resources when there are so many other pressing issues facing our schools. Furthermore, the turns of phrase in the bill are subjective and often influenced by religious ideology. I would remind the House Public Education Committee that our country was built upon a separation of church, or other houses of worship, and state. Additionally, requiring parental consent for access to library materials explicitly undermines Educators' authority and our government's trust in public education—a self-defeating approach. I have a deep, abiding love for the parents and children in my school. Nothing gives me greater joy than matching a child with the right book at the right time and using it as a door to realities and truths otherwise inaccessible if not for reading. I have a Masters Degree in library and information science, six years of classroom teaching experience, and eighteen years as an elementary librarian. I follow the detailed procedures provided by my school district when I select and order books for the library. These guidelines are designed to support the curriculum set by the state and meet the needs and interests of all students. Patterson calls this the "READER ACT"; however, it will have the opposite effect, leading to fewer acts of reading, fewer readers, and will cripple my community's access to knowledge and power. Books are about freedom of speech, both for children to read others' freedom of expression and for them to enact their own when they come to the library in search of books that they want to read. Books are for wonder; they are well-worn paths to other worlds and new ideas. As a Librarian, my role is to introduce children to the opportunities held within the pages; I take my responsibility seriously to foster knowledge while keeping a child's best interests at heart. I have curated a developmentally appropriate public school library collection that is highly valued for its beauty and breadth and that my students are unequivocally empowered through the act of reading.

Pat Tibbs
Montgomery County Tea Party PAC
Magnolia, TX

Please pass out of committee.

Halea Hayden
Self
Austin, TX

There are already processes in place by which parents can opt their children out of selecting books they deem offensive. In addition, our school librarians are trained and qualified to determine which books go in our school libraries. Please say NO to HB 900.

Anil Prabhakar
self (engineer)
Cedar Park, TX

I am strongly opposed to HB 900. If you really want to protect kids, then focus on preventing mass massacres like what happened in Uvalde, or ensuring that more Texan kids have health insurance. Please focus on those issues instead of banning books (which, by the way, is something done by Nazis and the Taliban, and we are so much better than those anti-American regimes).

Taylor Gilbert
Self
Midland, TX

I STRONGLY support HB 900 because it prohibits harmful, sexually explicit materials in public schools.

Sexually explicit material has NO PLACE in the hands of children and our public institutions have NO PLACE making it available. They, in fact, have the obligation to do the exact opposite.

Stand up for the protection of Texas children.

Forrest Myane
Self
San Antonio, TX

I am the daughter of a librarian and a huge supporter of libraries both as a patron and a donor. I strongly believe in the expertise of librarians and teachers to select books appropriate for their communities and I support a parents right to make decisions on the books their children read. It is not the job of legislators to determine what books children have access to, it is up to parents and librarians who are experts in collection development. This level of regulation is the opposite of the "small government" beliefs the Republican Party claims to stand for.

Susan Shafer
Self
Houston, TX

HB 900 puts book selection for TEXAS school children in the hands of OUT OF STATE book vendors. This thinly-disguised effort at censorship is unneeded and redundant. .

School librarians are professional educators who know what is appropriate for children and already follow book selection policies that are in place. Talk to some school librarians in elementary, middle and high schools and find out what they actually do. They are extensively trained to select books for particular audiences in the schools they serve.

Just like you wouldn't want the Texas State Legislature to be governed by California State Legislature rules, librarians don't want to be governed in their jobs by out of state, for profit entities.

Thank you.

James Bowman
Self
Lago Vista, TX

Public education is the duty of the government. "Promote the general welfare," this cannot be done if solid broad public education is not provided by our government. No government funds should go to private schools directly or indirectly, especially religious schools.

TYKISHA MURPHY
self retired
La Marque, TX

I am strongly in support of HB 900 Reader Act that prevents harmful sexually explicit materials in public schools. School age children go to school to learn reading, writing and math.

Mark Miller
Self
Weatherford, TX

I support this bill and wish more common sense would be applied when it comes to our children.

Reynaldo Montemayor Jr.
Self
Laredo, TX

I strongly support protecting children's innocent hearts and minds by vetting pornographic content in our school libraries.

Annie Geer
Republican Women of Red River Valley
Powderly, TX

I strongly support HB 900. Please pass this bill and get rid of books that go into details about sexual activities. Don't allow teachers to teach clean sections of novels that contain pornographic material like The Bluest Eye. There are plenty of kids who have passed the AP test and gotten into top colleges without having to learn from authors like Toni Morrison. Toni Morrison has Marxism in most of her writings. We don't need books promoting Marxism, socialism, racism, pedophilia, or detailed sexual activities. Google yourself and see what the CDC says on how many people are raped. You know not everyone is counted either. So, why would we want any book in a school that would give ideas or spark desires into anyone. If you are ever interested in talking to my husband who taught high school English for 17 years he would love to talk to you. He could also give you several ways on how to help the education system. His name is Josh and his number is 405-777-9604. Please vote yes for HB 900 and please call my husband!!!

Cecelia Fortney
self self employed
Leander, TX

I send my children to school to learn. Learn about the things they need to be productive citizens, the basics of reading writing, math science etc. I DO NOT send my children to school to go into the library or classroom to find books that are sexually explicit, promote sexual confusion or adult sexual subjects. I am not promoting book banning, I am insisting that these types of books are not meant to be in any school, and the subjects are not what I would allow to be taught in a school I send my children to. Most important, I cant believe I actually have to make a statement about this to clean up our schools or prevent them from including these books in childrens reading material. It also suggests our librarians need to be screened.

Mary Stevens
Self
Hewitt, TX

Pornographic books or sexually explicit materials have no place in the public schools.

Courtney Kennedy
Self
Richardson, TX

I support this bill and limiting inappropriate material from getting into the hands of children, especially when tax payers are footing the bill. Parents should be in charge of discussing this type of subject matter, not other adults or students.

Erin Tigelaar
Parent of two children attending Texas public schools
Austin, TX

I support Texas school librarians who are highly trained professional educators that select books based on local policies, approved by our school board. I trust school librarians, not out-of-state vendors, to determine if content in books is appropriate. And parents, not the state, are responsible for determining what their children read.

Margaret Sylvia
self, librarian
San Antonio, TX

Parents, not the state, are responsible for determining what their children read.

I trust school librarians, not out-of-state vendors, to determine if content in books is appropriate.

I support Texas school librarians who are highly trained professional educators that select books based on local policies, approved by our school board.

Elizabeth Wenske
Self
Shiner, TX

I support this bill, HB 900. Let kids be kids and no sexualization of children should EVER be allowed. Protect the children. Those books do NOY belong in a school library.
Thank you,
Elizabeth

Karen Marshall
State Republican Executive Committee
San Antonio, TX

Please vote FOR HB 900.

There are so many good and important subjects for minors to learn that there are literally not enough hours for them all during school - students have to choose between subjects such as economics or geography, ancient history or American history. So with as many good and academic subjects as there are for students to learn, books and videos in our school libraries should be restricted to clean, academic subjects.

Please do not allow crudely graphic, lewd, or sexual subject books to be purchased with taxpayers' money for school library collections. Please vote FOR HB 900.

Thank you.

Ruth Cremin
Self Retired
Hunt, TX

I am a product of Texas Public Schools. I grew up in Panhandle Texas Our sons attended Texas Public Schools and I now have grandchildren in Aledo Texas public schools. I'm praying that they don't continue but find a private school or home school. Why people want to steal the innocence of our children or to destroy our youth is incomprehensible to me. It is demonic! It is evil. If you can prevent this and do nothing you'll be held accountable. We'll all stand before GOD one day! You were all elected and sent to Austin to represent constituents. You get there and forget every election promise you ever made. I hope whatever you're getting is worth the price you're paying. Some of you have sold your souls.

Megan Vasquez
Education Austin
Austin, TX

Vehemently opposed to HB900. School districts have systems in place already. We don't need more government overreach.

Cindy Fountain, Ms
TXUUJM, Texas Unitarian Universalist Justice Ministry
Cleburne, TX

I oppose HB 900. This bill is harmful and unjust. My son is gay. Thank goodness bigotry was not being state-sponsored when he was in school. To have him being told by his own school and government that he is not suitable or vulgar is shameful. Please don't allow bigotry to be written into law in Texas. Thank you.

Vanessa Smith
self, self employed
San Antonio, TX

I support Texas school librarians who are highly trained professional educators that select books based on local policies, approved by our school board. I trust school librarians, not out-of-state vendors, to determine if content in books is appropriate. And parents, not the state, are responsible for determining what their children read.

Erin Nelson
Self- home school mom
Midland, TX

I strongly support HB 900 because it prohibits harmful, sexually explicit materials in public schools.

Sheryl Whitworth
self
Brady, TX

Regulation of sexually explicit material sold to or included in public school libraries is overdue and of utmost importance. I support the prohibition of sexually explicit materials in both public school and charter school libraries. Unfortunately, due to no previous oversight or regulation, there are currently sexually explicit books in school libraries. My hope is that the bill has provision for dealing with those books already in place.

Jonathan Haight
Self, Retired Educator, MLIS
Frisco, TX

As a family member of children attending public schools in the great state of Texas, I support its school librarians who are highly trained professional educators who select books based on local policies, approved by our school boards. I trust school librarians, not out-of-state vendors, to determine if content in books is appropriate. And parents, not the state, are responsible for determining what their children read.

As one of hundreds of leaders our state has produced throughout its history, you must certainly recognize that such leadership is not forged in a vacuum, but in a full range of enquiry we entrust our librarians to foster and guide, according to the needs of their communities.

As a child, Miss Sue would call my mother if she had reservations about what I was checking out. Mom would give her approval or disapproval, depending on my selection. The local librarian is a time-honored partner to parents in the care and development of their children.

This is an issue our society identified and solved long ago, resulting in a time-honored solution. The proposed legislation will add nothing to the current system and only result in a reduction in quality in the products our publishers are willing to bring to market.

Cordially,
Jonathan Haight

Laurie Duke
self, parent
Fort Worth, TX

Once again the consideration of HB 900 places the onus on schools and book vendors rather than parents for the content their child is reading. As a parent it is on me to instill the values I wish to see in my own children. The use of the term "sexually relevant" is so broad that it opens the door to government interference of content that I may find supportive to those values. It flies in the face of public education by regulating and imposing personally held ideologies to a wide variety of text. The bill is fundamentally flawed and extinguishes free-thought that is so desperately needed for children to safely explore the diverse world they inhabit. Please, vote against HB 900.

Shannon Smith
Self
Richardson, TX

Let local librarians be the professionals that they are. The government should not be involved in dictating the purchases of school libraries. This is another attempt at controlling the work of teachers and school employees, who are already doing too much with too little support. No one needs another form to fill out, a shortened list of "approved" books to get. What will be on the approved list? Who gets to pick that? Some guy in Austin who's never taught or used a library? I understand that this is part of an effort to reduce the reliance on skilled people. If books can only be ordered off a shortened list, then any idiot could do it. Except that's not who school librarians are, and ordering books isn't all they do. If we want students to have the best education possible, although given the other bills being proposed it looks like that isn't the goal, then we owe it to them to have world class ideas and books available. Books can't be reduced to a rating, like thinking can't be reduced to rote phrases. This is a layer of unnecessary and damaging bureaucracy and has no place in a free society, although calling Texas a free society at this juncture seems impossible. When bills are being proposed to reduce the number of places to vote, when women are told their health doesn't matter, when facts are labelled too dangerous to be in schools, that is not freedom. Get your hands off our children's books, and direct this idea of protecting kids to something useful, like actual turn reform. Or funding teachers and classes the way they need to be funded.

Leslie Whitehead

Self-homemaker

Midland, TX

I strongly support HB 900 because it prohibits harmful, sexually explicit materials in public schools. This material does not offer an expansion of any narrative other than the aggressive specialization of youth. There are multiple ways to introduce diverse viewpoints and beliefs without the use of sexually explicit material.

Bonnie Seelig

self - retired

Spicewood, TX

I support HB 900 (READER ACT.)

Under Section 33.024 (p. 2 line 27 - p.3. line 5) reference is made to students receiving parental permission to check out sexually explicit materials. I worked as a Texas high school teacher and librarian at both an elementary school and a high school. Books in the library checked out by one student who has permission from his or her parent is passed around from friend to friend in the school building causing quite a commotion in the classrooms. The local community libraries are more than happy to shelve these sexually explicit materials and would appreciate the business during the school year. Take the sexually explicit materials out of the school environment all together!

It is important to remember that book vendors are not the only people giving recommendations of books. The professional library journals give reviews that often pass over sexually explicit material in their enthusiasm for "great literature." The American Library Association (ALA) and state associations give awards to authors whose books wouldn't pass the "sexually explicit" test.

However as the library community reviews its prestigious books from the past, they choose to impart the standards of today on the life a century ago. In 1954, Wilder was the first recipient of the "Laura Ingalls Wilder Award" which was named in her honor. In 2018 the Association for Library Service to Children changed the name of the award from the "Laura Ingalls Wilder Award" to the "Children's Literature Legacy Award" because of Ms. Wilder's portrayal of Native Americans. It is hard to believe that librarians could be so sensitive in 2018 for the Native American, yet so accepting of sexually explicit materials for today's children.

Something to remember, that when purchasing books for the library, many systems are purchasing thousands at a time. When they are purchased, they are purchased fully processed. That means that they are stamped with the library's name on the books, covered with mylar jackets, call numbers that fit the particular library and acquisition numbers for that particular library. When the books are fully processed, returns are almost impossible. Perhaps districts should purchase one of each book in the fiction and graphic novel section unprocessed. Once reviewed by parents and librarians, the additional copies can be purchased fully processed.

Thank you for trying to protect the childhood innocence of our children while they are in our government schools.

Melissa Rippy

Self / Educator

Pasadena, TX

I support Texas school librarians who are highly trained professional educators that select books based on local policies, approved by our school board. I trust school librarians, not out-of-state vendors, to determine if content in books is appropriate. And parents, not the state, are responsible for determining what their children read. Texas Certified School Librarians hold Masters Degrees and have experience in Texas classrooms prior to becoming school librarians. This is the same standard of credentials that a Principal, Assistant Principal and most Superintendents hold in Texas. I don't understand why we are going to trust book publishers and vendors who have a monetary interest in selling reading materials over a highly qualified and state certified professional with knowledge of the campus needs.

Monica Dean

self

Houston, TX

I am a parent and have been a resident for over twenty years in the Cypress Fairbanks ISD, the third largest district in Texas, with over 118,000 students and 93 schools. I have two children that have been educated in the district, one currently a student. I have been speaking out and reading from these sexually explicit and pervasively vulgar material to make our district aware that these books are in our physical and online libraries. I would cite the Texas Penal Code 43.24, and soon discovered that an obscenity clause allows these books to remain in the libraries which is alarming and disheartening. I found that the reviews given by the publisher often didn't match or warn the reader what was actually in the book. I made the district aware by reading the publisher's review from our online library for the book titled Out of Darkness by Ashley Perez and then read the sexually explicit material from the book. I asked the district what would happen to these vendors if it was discovered that harmful material was in the book, would we cease to do business with them. I was never given an answer. CFISD spends millions each year on books. After many months of speaking out and pressure from the TEA, the district said they would make their own policy. The new policy was finally implemented in January 2023, and yet, these books are still in the library. We were told we could opt-in to certain levels depending on the age group (Juvenile, Young Adult or Adult) or opt-out of the library completely. These levels do not protect children. The age level for Young Adult is from 5th grade to 12th grade and the Adult level is 8th grade to 12th grade. Why do we need an Adult level and how many adults are actually attending high school? Because we felt that children still weren't being protected, some parents and I began to file formal reconsiderations on books. This is not an easy task. We have to read the entire book, fill out a form noting all the harmful material in the book and then email it to every school that has the book in its library. With at least 12 high schools and many more middle and elementary schools, it's a daunting task. The book committee is given thirty days to review while the sexually explicit book still remains on the shelf. Of the books we have filed on, only two were removed, the others were deemed educationally suitable by the committee, such as the graphic novel, The Handmaid's Tale, which shows images of a man raping a young girl while his wife sits on the bed next to them or a book titled Flamer, which shows realistic suicide imagery and a boy talking about masturbating into a Mountain Dew bottle, or the book titled Beyond Magenta describing a six year old giving oral sex.

I am in support of HB900 – I want publishers, librarians, and districts held accountable. The bill needs to include digital and classroom libraries as well. The sexualization of Texas children must stop and their innocence must be protected.

Janna Canard

Self, assistant director at St. Stephen Presbyterian Day School

Fort Worth, TX

I oppose HB 900. Our public schools and librarians are qualified to decide which books go in our libraries and there are already processes in place for parents to opt their children out of checking out books they deem offensive. HB 900 is a dangerous bill encouraging school districts to ban books about marginalized communities. HB 900 allows school districts to ban books that are "pervasively vulgar or educationally unsuitable" without defining those terms. We've already felt the weight of book bans in our communities across Texas. When those terms in particular are used to ban books, books about LGBTQ+ lives are disproportionately taken off the shelves and LGBTQ+ youth bear the brunt of the impact.

LGBTQ+ people are not "educationally unsuitable" and acknowledging their existence is not "pervasively vulgar."

Schools are responsible for the well-being of EVERY student, which means respecting EVERY family. LGBTQ+ students and families deserve to feel safe and respected in Texas schools. HB 900 would force schools to violate that most basic trust.

Elizabeth Hopkins

Precinct 1034

Little Elm, TX

I strongly support this bill since it prohibits harmful, sexually explicit materials in public schools which I feel is essential.

Erin Greene

self

Kingwood, TX

I am FOR this bill! These books have no educational value and should not be in our schools.

Donna Denison

Self, retired classroom teacher

DALLAS, TX

As a retired Dallas ISD classroom teacher with two grandchildren in Dallas, I support the selection of books based on local policies, approved by our local school board. School librarians are highly trained professional educators who recommend and select books for our schools. I trust school librarians, not out-of-state vendors, to determine if content in books is appropriate. Parents, not the state, are responsible for determining what their children read.

Ruth York, (1) VP; (2) Interim Chair

(1) Tea Party Patriots of Eastland County; (2) Texas Family Defense Committee; (3) self (Direct sales)

CISCO, TX

We strongly support HB 900 as a way to prohibit the exposure of young, impressionable minds to unsuitable, age-inappropriate, sexually explicit material in school and public libraries.

Cheryl Robison

AAUW

Fort Worth, TX

I believe we should trust librarians who are educated in appropriate, age-related topics to choose educational material to be placed in school libraries. They know far more than non-educators, i.e., legislators, what is appropriate on their bookshelves. Banning and restricting books is a slippery slope to censorship and authoritarianism. Only a small minority of narrow-minded people are trying to force their own beliefs on the many. We still have majority- rule democracy—until narrow-minded people force us into de-evolution.

Susan Burek

Self: I am a Parent and an advocate for people with disabilities

Austin, TX

Thank you for allowing me to testify regarding HB 900. My name is Sue Burek and I live in Austin, Texas. I'm a parent, an advocate for people with disabilities, and a member of several advocacy organizations that serve families with children with disabilities, including Texas Parent to Parent, Protect Texas Fragile Kids, and Loving Hearts for All.

I am testifying AGAINST HB 900, which would effectively ban books about LGBTQIA+ issues from school libraries. It is very important that these books should be available to any student who would like to read them.

Please vote AGAINST HB 900. Thank you very much for your consideration of my request.

Paula Lee

Self / Parent

Austin, TX

Librarians are professionals who are qualified to decide which books go in our libraries. There are already processes in place for parents to opt their children out of checking out books they deem offensive. Please say no to HB 900. Thank you.

Tammy Garmon

Self

Orange, TX

Public school libraries should never contain sexually explicit books or materials! Our children need to be protected from this!

Melody Draper, Mrs.

Self

Lufkin, TX

As a concerned grandmother & life long Texas resident, who has become increasingly & extremely disturbed & sickened by some of the materials that are being allowed in school/public libraries & pushed into the hands of our vulnerable children & youth, I am requesting all of my state representatives to do the right thing...Help protect our children & vote "YES" on HB 900.

Thanks,

Melody Draper

Sherrie Reid

Orrange County Republican Party

Bridge City, TX

Nothing with pornography in it at all. BANBANBAN!!!

Sherrie Reid

Orange County Republican Party

Bridge City, TX

Ban the books that have pornography pictures or language for all grades!!! BAN BAN BAN!!!!

Terri Cousins

Self

Belton, TX

I support

Vicky Little

Dallas Eagle Forum

Dallas, TX

I support and am asking all representatives to support HB 900 relating to the regulation of books sold to or included in public school libraries.

Lisa Healy

Self

Lincolndale, TX

Please vote in favor of this bill to protect out children from pornography in our schools and libraries. Thank you for your consideration.

Sharon Elliott, Mrs.

Self, retired teacher

Waco, TX

I strongly support HB900, because it prohibits sexually explicit material to our schools and children. We are accountable to God to protect our children from these horrific influences that are being used to destroy their childhood.

I urge you to pass this important legislation, for the sake of our present and future generations. Our prayers are with you to take a stand against this attempt to destroy the hearts and minds of all our children.

Thank you for your courageous stand,

Carol Collins
Retired
San Antonio, TX

As a retired school librarian, I ask that you say NO to HB 900. Our librarians are qualified to decide which books go in our libraries and there are already processes in place for parents to opt their children out of checking out books they deem offensive. Please say no to HB 900. Thank you.

Linda Evans, Ms
Self
Conroe, TX

I am a concerned citizen, former teacher, mother and grandmother.

I support Texas school librarians who are highly trained professional educators that select books based on local policies, approved by our school board. I trust school librarians, not out-of-state vendors, to determine if content in books is appropriate. And parents, not the state, are responsible for determining what their children read.

Do not vote for HB 900!

Heather Makare
Self -parent
Georgetown, TX

Books need to reflect the interests of a varied community. It is up to the individual district to determine protocol and needs in their own area in order to put their students first. A school library's collection should reflect the variety of viewpoints and experiences of it's students and the real world.

Dawnita Nix
Self
Austin, TX

Please vote against HB 900. Local control over libraries in school should not be taken away. There are already policies in place for parents to opt their child out of material that they deem inappropriate.

Anne Livingston, Ms.
Self, - Educator
Austin, TX

I urge you to vote NO on HB 900! Texas public school librarians are educated, trained, care about young people, and are perfectly capable of deciding which books belong in school libraries. There are already systems in place at public school libraries which allow parents to opt their children out of checking out books they believe are offensive. That this bill has been introduced in 2023 is shameful. Have we not progressed? As stated in the 1953 book Fahrenheit 451: "So now do you see why books are hated and feared? They show the pores in the face of life. The comfortable people want only wax moon faces, poreless, hairless, expressionless." As a parent, a teacher, and an American who believes in individual freedoms, I am utterly disgusted by this bill. Finally, what a waste of taxpayers' money to have another person or entity decide such things!

Maria Hammerlein, Republican Precinct Chair
Kerr County Republican Party
Kerrville, TX

Never has an issue been more important! Due to inaction by our elected officials Texas children are being sexualized in the place where they should otherwise be protected, their schools and even public libraries. And even worse, when our government encourages pedophilia through inaction it emboldens those predators to come out in the open and our children are no longer safe. We have thus surrendered our children's innocence causing catastrophic destruction of normal healthy families. Our children require protection and it is our duty to do all we can to give them a fighting chance with the passage of HB 900. Please vote for Passage!

Janet Realini, Dr
Self
San Antonio, TX

Please oppose HB 900, which would eliminate local control in public school libraries. Our public school librarians are qualified to decide which books go in our libraries. It is important that parents and educators be able to weigh in at the local school district level. State control is inappropriate and dictatorial. There are already processes in place for parents to opt their children out of checking out books they deem offensive. Please say no to HB 900 and encourage other committee members to oppose its approval, as well. Thank you.

Laurel Dunn
Self
Georgetown, TX

I support Texas school librarians who are highly trained professional educators that select books based on local policies, approved by our school board. I trust school librarians, not out-of-state vendors, to determine if content in books is appropriate. And parents, not the state, are responsible for determining what their children read.

Katie Ann Prescott, Mrs.

self/school librarian

Cedar Park, TX

When considering HB 900, please take into account systems are in place at the local level to ensure that age-appropriate books are found in the school library. Our school board adopted a collection development policy that librarians follow with fidelity. In the past four years, our libraries have seen ONE single, solitary book challenge. When this challenge arose, our librarians and district administrators leaned on the policy agreed upon by our school board, and through the challenge process detailed in the policy, we found that the process worked in order to meet the needs of our community. Librarians partner with parents, and we know parents are essential to a student's success. If a parent requests their child not read about a specific topic, librarians place a note on their student's account, so we can support the parent's wishes. Parents also have 24/7 access to both the entire library catalog and their student's library use history. They are able to see what books their child has checked out from Kindergarten-12th grade. School librarians are professional educators with years and years of education and experience. To become a school librarian in Texas, one must earn a Bachelor's degree, pass two teaching certification exams, teach for two years, earn a Master's degree in Library Science, and then pass another state certification exam geared towards implementing methods in the school library. In our Master's degree program, we take graduate level courses that are geared towards collection development which enables us to build a balanced collection that contains multiple viewpoints and lived experiences, fosters critical thinking skills, and reflects the interests of the patrons we serve. We learn how to gauge age appropriateness for the specific community we serve. In addition to our education, books are already rated by both reading level and age-appropriateness. We take into account our community's values, what we know our community stands for and longs to see in their children, and this is always at the forefront of our minds when we purchase books. We ask for recommendations for possible purchases from our students and staff, but before we buy anything, we fall back on our community's values, our board approved collection development policy, the reading level, and the age-appropriateness rating. In fact, it may take up to two months to create a list of books to purchase-- simply because librarians painstakingly take the time to ensure every book we purchase meets these standards. I fear that a state-mandated policy will remove a district's local control and as a result, not meet the needs of every individual student in the district. Who better to assess what books our students need than the soldiers with their boots on the ground? Please ensure that school districts do not lose the ability to build collections that engage our students, inspire learning, support student achievement, and are tailored to the specific needs of our students.

Sylvia Morales

Cadep

El Paso, TX

HB900. Need to regulate the books available to children

Micah Dunn

Self homeschool mom

Midland, TX

I support not exposing our Texas children to pornography and explicit repulsive material through our library books. There are guardrails and boundaries on movies and television. There should also be protections for not harming minors through books.

Sylvia Coulson

Self

Waxahachie, TX

I strongly support this bill. I have found books of clearly sexual nature in the Waxahachie ISD library. I was assured that the system would be changed so these were not included. A quick search this week has showed me that these type books are still there. These need to be removed. Thank you Mr. Patterson for submitting this bill.

Melvin DeGeeter

self

Richmond, TX

I recommend that a vote in favor of HB 900. Passage of the bill will contribute to enhancing the morals of our nation which are currently being eroded resulting in rising hate and crime.

Ann Leoni
Taxpayer
The Woodlands, TX

I am insulted as a taxpayer to think that the voice I have been given, to vote for my local schools, is being undermined by the few in Austin. I believe that parents have a right to decide for their children and that those decisions can be accommodated by various methods which do not preclude making their decision 'THE decision' for all parents. I support Texas school librarians who are highly trained professional educators that select books based on local policies, approved by our school board. I trust school librarians, not out-of-state vendors, to determine if content in books is appropriate. And parents, not the state, are responsible for determining what their children read.

Catherine Schulenberg
Self; Library Assistant
Kerrville, TX

As a library assistant, a parent, and a concerned citizen of Texas - a state I dearly love but increasingly fear for - I am appalled by the onslaught of anti-education, anti-literacy, and anti-fact actions of our Governor, Lt. Governor, Attorney General, and State Legislature. It is not for the Legislature to tell publishers how and what to publish, nor is it for the Legislature to control what students may read or have access to. It is the responsibility of parents to see to what their children read - period. But they have no more right than politicians to impose their "standards" on others. We do not live in a theocratic dictatorship - yet. Don't force us further down that path.

Judith Skelton
Self
Ft. Worth, TX

Say NO to HB 900. Our librarians are qualified to decide which books go in our libraries and there are already processes in place for parents to opt their children out of checking out books they deem offensive. Please say no to HB 900. Thank you.

Terri Dunn
Self
Midland, TX

Please vote yes on this bill prohibiting sexually explicit books from the library. After reading some of these books available to children, I believe this bill is very much needed to protect our children and grandchildren.

Melissa Wright
Self
Plano, TX

I am against this bill. Librarians are highly trained professionals and can be trusted to select the books for their libraries. If a parent doesn't want their child to read a book, that's their decision. The decision shouldn't be made by the state before the book even gets to the school library.

Donna Birdsong, Ms.
Self
Austin, TX

These radical issues will not stand and history will not be tolerant of them. And, even though it is obvious, banning books is what happened in Nazi Germany! Books lead to understanding the world, as well as to tremendous pleasure. Also, banning them will lead to greater interest. Leave choices to parents!

Ashley Reed
Self
Floresville, TX

I am opposed to this bill. Having been a child of rural Texas where I didn't fit in, books and libraries provided safety I could not find elsewhere. Regulating out librarians and libraries is not freedom. State oversight in this industry is unnecessary. With internet access children have readily available access to the unfiltered world. Libraries are already a place with oversight. A place we can go to learn about the unknown and in the case of a child have the oversight of a librarian.

Wilma Tate
Self
Victoria, TX

I support the Bill HB900, our children and grandchildren DO NOT need to be exposed to such filth in libraries. I am appalled that this is even an issue! Protect the minds of our future and conduct of their actions. Our future moral fiber is at stake. God help us protect the next generations! "Trash in trash out!"

Jodi Jacobson
Self - Professor
Round Rock, TX

The Texas Legislature is not the expert on which books may be developmentally appropriate, educational, and enticing for children to read, school librarians with degrees in both education and library science, are. Literacy rates are low in Texas, the way to improve that is to have a wide array of books available. Not every child has the same interests, and having books that appeal to different kids increases the chances that a child will read for fun, increasing literacy. Banning books is harmful and decreases literacy. Parents already have the right to limit what their child can check out from a library. Parents already have the right to challenge the presence of any book within a library and to request its removal. Honor MY right as a parent to allow MY child to read anything that will interest them and improve their literacy. Honor the qualifications of those trained specifically to select age appropriate books for children, and honor the process each parent has already to limit that. Do not choke out literacy in Texas through misguided book bans.

Maddison Creameans
Self
Austin, TX

Our librarians are qualified to decide which books go in our libraries and there are already processes in place for parents to opt their children out of checking out books they deem offensive. Please say no to HB 900. Thank you.

Valerie Prilop
Self
Pearland, TX

Our librarians are qualified to decide which books go in our libraries and there are already processes in place for parents to opt their children out of checking out books they deem offensive. Please say no to HB 900. Thank you.

Calee Lee
Xist Publishing
ROSENBERG, TX

As a Texas resident, parent, and president of Xist Publishing, the largest woman-owned children's publisher in the United States, I stand in support of HB 900. Our company is committed to publishing books that inspire discovery and delight and our fiction and nonfiction books are used in classrooms and school libraries all over the great state of Texas. We absolutely support parents' right to know what is in their students' school libraries and a parent's right to choose the books they deem appropriate for their child. The restrictions of this bill do not place an undue burden on publishers or school library vendors. We encourage our Texas house members to serve the students of Texas by making school libraries a place where students' imaginations can expand, their understanding can increase, and their safety from sexual explicit material can be assured. Thank you.

Amy Martindale

Self

Mesquite, TX

As a public school teacher and the parent of a child who attends public school, I believe that our school librarians are fully equipped to make decisions about what books should be made available to our children. Librarians are required to receive an additional degree for their position and we should trust them as professionals to do their job as they have been trained to do. My daughter has developed a love of reading (and in turn, writing) as a result of the books that she has checked out from her school library. I do not believe that it is the state's or an outside company's job to determine which books are made available to her.

Elizabeth Goode

Self - Academic librarian

San Antonio, TX

As a fellow librarian and mother of children entering the Texas public education system I support Texas school librarians who are highly trained professional educators that select books based on local policies, approved by our school board. I trust school librarians, not out-of-state vendors, to determine if content in books is appropriate. And parents, not the state, are responsible for determining what their children read.

Susan Warren

Self/retired Texas public school teacher

Cibolo, TX

I support Texas school librarians who are trained professional educators and who select books based on local policies approved by the school board. Parents, not the state, are responsible for determine what their children read.

Jassyel Gomez

Self

Fort Worth, TX

I support Texas school librarians who are highly trained professional educators that select books based on local policies, approved by our school board. I trust school librarians, not out-of-state vendors, to determine if content in books is appropriate. And parents, not the state, are responsible for determining what their children read.

Breanna Everard

Self, author-illustrator

Austin, TX

I am a concerned citizen, and I support Texas school librarians. They are highly trained professional educators that select books based on local policies, approved by the school board. I trust school librarians, not out-of-state vendors, to determine if content in books is appropriate for children. And parents, not the state, are responsible for determining what their individual children read, not what is accessible to all children.

Carrie Stewart

Self

Colleyville, TX

Say NO to HB 900. Our librarians are qualified to decide which books go in our libraries and there are already processes in place for parents to opt their children out of checking out books they deem offensive. Please say no to HB 900. Thank you.

David Travers
Self - Retired
Kingsland, TX

School librarians are first and foremost professional educators that work hard to ensure that students are successful in their education. Parental engagement and partnership is essential to students' success, and the librarians' success. There is no one-size-fits-all library collection, and attempting to create one produces a very narrow view of the world. Books in a school library should present multiple viewpoints, actual lived experiences, foster critical thinking skills, and reflect the unique make-up and interests of the student population.

School librarians follow their district's collection development policies which are approved by the locally elected school board. They apply their professional training and expertise and use their knowledge of community needs in selecting materials that will develop strong readers. Let's not lose that "boots on the ground" partnership between local School Boards (Parents) and Teachers by trying to legislate the details from afar. Books are already rated by reading level and age-appropriateness and are purchased from a wide variety of vendors. Again, let's engage our vendors in an active partnership vs a mandate. As you consider HB 900, please ensure that school districts parents and teachers don't lose the local ability to build collections that inspire learning, support student achievement, and are tailored to the specific needs of the students in their community.

Emily Dieringer
Self / Public School Parent
Austin, TX

I have been a Texas public school parent for more than a decade. During that time, I've spent countless hours volunteering in my sons' school libraries. School librarians are one of our school system's greatest treasures; rarely have I met individuals so passionately dedicated to serving ALL of their students. In addition to their masters-level educations, our librarians receive hours of additional district and state training every year. They are more than qualified to decide which books go in our libraries. For those who may find some of these materials offensive, there are already processes in place for parents to opt their children out of borrowing books they deem offensive. Let's not disenfranchise all students for the sake of a few. Please say no to HB 900. Thank you.

Brittany Tapia
Texas Library Association
Round Rock, TX

The school library has been a safe place for all my students. Our wonderful librarian is not only trustworthy, but she always goes above and beyond! She encourages our students to continue to read various genres, has some great book clubs, and provides many recommendations for every single one of our students. Every student has a book in hand and continuously ask to go return or check out books. Without our librarian and our library our school would be lost.

Sara Lemenager
Self - Accountant
Liberty Hill, TX

School librarians are first and foremost professional educators that work hard to ensure that students are successful in their education. Parents are essential to students' success, and librarians encourage their engagement. There is a no one-size-fits-all library collection. The books in a school library present multiple viewpoints and lived experiences, foster critical thinking skills, and reflect the unique make-up and interests of the student population. All school librarians follow their district's collection development policies which are approved by the locally elected school board. They apply their professional training and expertise, and use their knowledge of community needs in selecting materials that will develop strong readers. Any state-mandated policy requirements must not impede a district's ability to craft a collection development policy that meets the needs of every student. Books are already rated by reading level and age-appropriateness and are purchased from a wide variety of vendors. As you consider HB 900 please ensure that school districts don't lose the ability to build collections that inspire learning, support student achievement, and are tailored to the specific needs of the students. Thank you for your consideration.

Teddi Fulenwider
Self -educational consultant
Mesquite, TX

As a parent, grandparent, former teacher, and administrator I implore you to allow librarians and school administrators to do their job by selecting books for their district. No entity should be allowed to discriminate against and ban books based on their views. Public schools and libraries have always allowed parents to opt out of books for their own child. This is yet one more ploy by the conservatives to destroy public schools.

A Carol893 5113 5173 Teitelman
Retired
PFLUGERVILLE, TX

Please VOTE no to this bill. Our schools employ highly qualified librarians and educators who, with parents, can make the best decisions of which books can be used in their local schools. Stop trying to micromanage from the state legislature.

Mary Coleman, Mrs.
self
Waco, TX

I strongly support HB900 because it prohibits harmful, sexually explicit materials in public schools. Please protect our Texas kids!!!

Mike Lawniczak
Self, warehouse worker
Austin, TX

Hello,

My comments relate specifically to the HB 900 portion of this bill. Schools hire librarians and teachers to do their jobs; to curate books for school learners. My partner is a librarian themselves, and went through years of training and contract positions learning from others and honing their craft. I do not understand why we need more government overreach to control what hard working people do. If we trust our schools to hire these individuals, and we trust our library programs at our universities to train these individuals, then we should believe that our librarians and teachers have the knowledge and understanding to make good choices when it comes to reading material. They are the experts. Not us. If parents are concerned, they can freely meet with the librarian/teacher or request books to be removed, a process that already exists. This only feels like more big government getting in the way of someone's job. It's the individual's responsibility, and the parent's responsibility, to understand what their child reads, not the government. Library catalogs are also online; if someone wants to look through them without talking to somebody, they can. And in a conversation with their child, the parent can determine if their kid can check out that book or not by looking in the catalog (which contains summaries of what the books are about and subject terms!) But it is not their right to take that individual choice away from another kid or another parent or from the librarian/teacher doing their job providing knowledge. This individual freedom should not be trampled by a misguided collective. The library my partner works in (at the college level) has all kinds of books from both sides of the political spectrum, from Trump biographies to communist pamphlets. And that's how it should be. K-12 libraries generally don't have the kinds of adult material that college ones do, because our librarians and teachers are smart enough to not put those books there. Thanks for your time.

Paula Hilliard
self
San Antonio, TX

Please support this bill. It is common sense!

We ban vaping on campus, while some parents don't mind if their kids vape.
We ban smoking, marijuana, fighting, harassing teachers with verbal statements, sexual activity on campus, and weapons use, even if some parents don't mind their kids doing these activities as minors. Clearly, most kids who partake in these activities think it helps them identify with their true selves, and they enjoy these activities.

How can schools and laws take these things away from minors? The state has an interest in protecting children from harmful things, and their classmates from being exposed to, threatened by, affected by, etc, harmful things.
We have a constitutionally protected right to bear arms, but it has not stopped schools from saying "no weapons on campus".

Why are books in a class of their own?
Each of the above activities is performed or received through the senses. Eyes, Ears, mouth, body - just like a book or audio book is received through the senses.

Books DO affect a child's imagination, mind, behavior and development, which all sides of this issue acknowledge. To protect children from harmful material or obscene material is in the interest of the state. Those who study child development know this.

Public libraries have many books available in person and online that can provide all the harmful content a parent wishes their child to be exposed to, for free and without risk of exposing other children whose parents do NOT want that.

It's not the 1800s where accessibility was limited. Please support this bill.

Kelly Morrison
Self - Certified School Librarian and parent
Missouri City, TX

I believe that the parents and not the state should be responsible for determining what their children read. As a parent, educator, and librarian, I support Texas school librarians who are highly trained professional educators that select books based on local policies and curriculum, approved by our school board. I trust school librarians, not out-of-state vendors, to determine if content in books is appropriate. Librarians go to school for 6 or more years to learn how to select and evaluate books for schools and have a Master of Science in Library Science or certification. A book vendor may or may not have any training when it comes to evaluating books. More often than not, they will use an algorithm that will exclude wonderful, age appropriate books that would normally be allowed in libraries. Libraries should be about freedom of choice and give parents and students access to a wide variety of materials. Libraries are not all the same and I don't believe taking away the freedom of choice is the answer.

Rosalind Norman
None
Canton, TX

Our children are our greatest blessings from God. It is our God given responsibility to protect them from the evils of this world. When my children were small, we sang, "oh be careful little eyes what you see, oh be careful little ears what you hear, oh be careful little feet where you go." Things seen cannot be unseen. Who knows what damage will be done to our children as they mature after being exposed to explicit sexual materials in their schools. This is in many ways equivalent to sexual abuse. Please stop this radicalization of our blessed little ones in our public schools.
"If anyone causes one of these little ones—those who believe in me—to stumble, it would be better for them to have a large millstone hung around their neck and to be drowned in the depths of the sea. Matthew 18:6

Georgia Polley

self

Houston, TX

I oppose HB 900. Schools boards and librarians should maintain local control of school libraries. The state is not qualified to address the suitability of library books. This bill just creates more bureaucracy.

Bianca Conrad, Mother

Self, Homemaker

Austin, TX

Please say No to this bill. I trust my school librarian and if I do not want my child to see a book or do an activity, I just tell her. It is not a problem.

Phillip Micocci

Self, Teacher

Spring, TX

This sounds like certain voices are trying to be silenced, specifically LGBTQIA+. Many of the children who fit in that category are already vulnerable and ostracized. Choice of books and teaching materials should be left up to experts, not politicians.

Elizabeth Exley

self

JARRELL, TX

My whole family and all our friends are very concerned and disgusted about the books and content found in public school libraries that are extremely inappropriate and obscene in the public education system. HB 900 is a common sense solution to increase public school transparency and support parental rights while protecting children. It is not the job of schools to indoctrinate our children's moral system. Otherwise, IF those books are allowed, so should Bibles and other Christian books be allowed and promoted.

Sarah Berel-Harrop
Self / Seminarian, Intern Minister & Director of Religious Education
Farmers Branch, TX

As a parent and a religious educator I vehemently oppose HB900.

There are existing challenge procedures for books that involve local committees reviewing books.

Unfortunately, activists who haven't read the books pass around snippets to generate outrage. How do I know they haven't read the books? The bill author, Rep. Patterson, wrote a letter last year (which several bill authors/coauthors also signed) to school boards around the state that claimed that the book Gender Queer "graphically illustrates child pornography." So, I personally read the book to find out if this was true. The panes in question? Depict adult college students, not children. The actual take-away of the panes in question? Consent and communication with one's partner. Even a cursory reading would reveal that there was no child pornography in this book. While I do think parents should be able to monitor their own children's reading, and I don't support children and youth reading or watching pornography, I simply cannot take this kind of hyperbolic manipulation seriously.

Recent book challenges, such as the 800 book Krause list from last year, just so happen to focus on books written by people who are Black, Indigenous, Latino/a, Asian, and other people of color, as well as LGBTQ people. It's an obvious attempt to remove depictions of people who do not meet a white, christian, heteronormative ideal. As a religious educator, one thing I know is that kids benefit from seeing themselves in media, and from *seeing people who are different than them* which builds empathy and openness and curiosity to the experiences of others.

While I don't know the outcome of the various challenges of specific books such as Gender Queer, what I do know is that when people challenge books without reading them, and review panels actually read the books and disagree, the challengers will be shocked, angry, and will seek to override those local community decisions. And that's exactly what's happening here with this bill.

This bill would take away local control from school districts and place it instead with the State Board of Education which has been a hotbed of White Christian Nationalism for years and the Texas State Library and Archives commission. This is not acceptable, local communities should be able to govern themselves.

Rather than parents opting out of books they don't want for their children, a few people will be making decisions for everyone, and parents will have to opt in to educational material.

I volunteered at my child's public school library and know the care that librarians take in selecting and weeding books. I support our school librarians, who not only get specialized library science education but who also have experience as classroom teachers and are familiar with child development and educational pedagogy. We need to support librarians rather than demonizing them. Please reject this harmful bill.

Jennifer Kratky
self, homemaker
Magnolia, TX

I support this bill. We were horrified to find sexually explicit books in our child's JUNIOR HIGH school library last year. We sacrificed and saved our money to be able to afford to buy a home in what we thought was a great school district, in a very conservative area. Then when I brought public attention to this issue locally, I was vilified by (some) district administrators and librarians. Most parents cannot comprehend why any school staff would think these books are OK for minors?? The fact that this issue has been muddy and "up for debate" is causing distrust and discord. This needs to be settled at the state level. I believe this bill would bring peace because it would no longer be a "fight" in 1,000 different school districts. We would have a state standard for high-quality, non-harmful reading material in SCHOOL libraries, which is ALREADY what parents assume is the case. Please, I urge you to use the leadership role God has entrusted you with, and ensure common-sense standards of decency are in place for all Texas children.

Francesca Romans

Self - Stay at Home Parent/Contract Paralegal

Leander, TX

I write today to oppose HB 900. School librarians in Texas are required to have Master's degrees and meet rigorous requirements to work in our public schools. They are experts in their fields and do incredible work to make sure our kids have robust selections. They work within the policies set by the school boards to create spaces that our children can learn, gather, and thrive in. Please allow these experts to do their jobs and allow our school districts to retain local control over their libraries.

Spark Fields

self - adult care administrator

Austin, TX

I stand in firm opposition to this book burning measure. I support individual liberty and the absolute freedom of speech, and this bill is spitting in the face of the brave men who bled and died to secure that right for us in the founding of our nation, our Republic of Texas, and our great state.

Courtney Clanton

self

Rockwall, TX

I support Texas school librarians who are highly trained professional educators that select books based on local policies, approved by our school board. I trust school librarians, not out-of-state vendors, to determine if content in books is appropriate. And parents, not the state, are responsible for determining what their children read.

Tad Preston

self

Frisco, TX

I am for restricting vendors from selling sexually explicit material to public schools. There is no reason for this type of material to be on any shelf in a public school library ever. The purpose of our public schools is to educate our kids so that they can become productive self-governing citizens. These social issues have no place in our schools and it is placing undue stress on our teacher. Please pass this bill out of this committee.

Sara Freund
self- educator
Austin, TX

I am writing to voice my opposition to HB 900 by Patterson on behalf of educators, parents, and students across the state of Texas. Dr. Rudine Sims Bishop reminds us of the importance of books as "windows, mirrors, and sliding glass doors." All readers, no matter the age, need to read books where they see themselves and their lived experiences reflected back like a mirror. These books offer self- affirmation, comfort, and validation that they are seen, heard, and valued in this world. As a white, straight girl growing up in Texas I was surrounded by books that affirmed my existence and value in society, but I also needed books that helped me learn about people that were different from me. These are the books that act as windows, providing a view of the world and the people in it that may be unfamiliar or different from us. Books that help readers learn about other people and their lived experiences are critical to building compassion and empathy, an understanding of our diverse world, relational skills, collaborative skills, problem-solving skills, and so many more valuable skills that are needed in our multicultural world. A book can be a mirror for one reader, while that same book may be a window for others. This bill would not only affect students who need to see themselves reflected in books, but all students who need books as windows to grow as a well-rounded citizen in the diverse world in which we live.

This bill is based on opinion and intentionally vague so that any book containing LGBTQIA+ characters could be banned and/or made virtually impossible to make available to students in school libraries. Students have choices when they go to the library, it's part of their intellectual freedom as readers, and this bill is dictating which books they're allowed to read and who has the right to be seen in books. By eliminating the LGBTQIA+ community from books, which this harmful bill is aiming to do, this also sends a dangerous message about who has the right to exist in society.

As I said, HB 900 is based on opinions, so here is some research to consider:

- *When students' lived experiences are erased from the books they read, it can cause trauma. (Jones, 2020)
- *When students' learning isn't contextualized in ways that help them make sense of their actual experiences outside of school, they can feel confusion and dissociation. (Gay, 2018)
- *When students aren't able to comprehend the lived experiences of others, it can cause tension, bullying, and other forms of physical and psychological marginalization, harming the learning environment. (Lewis & Diamond, 2015.)
- *The information that book bans are withholding is critical to a developing citizen and a well-rounded world view. (Agee, 1994; Church, 1997; Marriott, 2013; Noll, 1999).
- *Book banning is an issue that divides communities and propels the idea that one group is more important, significant, or powerful than another. (Church, 1997 & Marriott, 2013)

Cecilia Wood, Esq.
Self
Austin, TX

Most parents have no other option but to send their children to public schools. They are forced to trust the teachers, librarians, aides, and others to protect their children in their absence. Just as not all children of the same age can read at the same level, not all children of the same age have the same maturity or sensibilities to decipher every subject matter. Sexuality involves moral beliefs which are based either in a family's religious beliefs or lack of religious beliefs. Even with the best of intentions a teacher or other school employee who knows the student for a part of a day for a part of a school year while learning about the other 29 or more in the class cannot possibly have the insight into a child's heart in the way a parent does. Ironically, we would prosecute and terminate the parental rights of a parent who showed their children graphic images of children having sex. Imagine how unwittingly a child who has been the victim of sexual abuse or a teen who is already battling an addiction to porn could be retraumatized. We should not permit tax payer dollars and precious learning time to be used to encourage these interests. The materials do not belong in the schools period. If they are there, parents need to be fully informed and their informed consent **MUST** be obtained before they are made available to any child. Thank you for your consideration of these points and please vote HB 900 out of committee and out of the House.

Rachel Walker
self, Research Operations
Houston, TX

Hello, I am a concerned Texas citizen who is the product of public schools, public teachers, and public school librarians expertise and guidance from elementary school all the way through a graduate education. I support Texas school librarians who are trained professional educators that select books based on local policies, approved by each school board. I trust school librarians, not out-of-state vendors, to determine if the content in books is appropriate for Texas children. Parents, not the state, are responsible for determine what their children read.

Karen Murphy
Self/parent/grandparent
North Richland Hills, TX

I fully support trained, educated librarians within our school systems to determine what books are appropriate for school libraries - NOT vendors or outside groups whose purpose is to provide books for schools to purchase. Parents should individually decide for their own child(ren) what is appropriate and be involved in what their child is choosing to read from any library. Allowing an outside entity such as book vendors or even a group of conservative parents to decide what books can be in school libraries steps on everyone's freedom to choose, to learn, to expand our minds.to recognize differences that helps us accept others. I am against HB 900.

Diane Tuinstrs
Myself
Victoria, TX

Please support this bill.

Jennifer McPhee
Texas Pride K9
Laredo, TX

All Texas schools should have pornographic material banned from the school libraries and curriculum as well as CRT. Our children are our future and very influential at school ages. It's important to keep their minds focused on learning skills needed for a good career.

If sex ed is one of these classes that needs to be taught, the basic anatomy, sexually transmitted diseases and contraceptives that prevent pregnancy and disease should be enough. Not sex positions and graphic pics of ANY influence.

Andrea Zeddies, Dr.
Self/Psychologist
Austin, TX

The selection of books needs to remain with the librarians and the schools. They have received highly specialized training and education and know what books are best for our kids. We cannot allow the state government to control and regulate freedom of speech and expression. Oppose.

Algera Anderson
Self, Assistant City Administrator
Linden, TX

I support Texas school librarians who are highly trained professional educators that select books based on local policies, approved by our school board. I trust school librarians, not out-of-state vendors, to determine if content in books is appropriate. And PARENTS, not the state, are responsible for for determining what their children read.

Rachael Bonser

self-teacher

Austin, TX

Please!!! Don't censor our books!

Erin Bingham

Self

Spring, TX

Stop regulating books! We have Librarians with Masters Degrees who can do that, but this bill is an operational mess that would create a burden on staffing. And when we lose educators in Texas, we will look to empty bills like this that served a purpose of pandering while making the jobs of our educators HARDER as part of the reason why.

Cindy Travers

self retired

Kingsland, TX

Regarding the Reader Act - This is an extreme bill that must not be passed. Please let Teachers and Librarians do their job. What I hope from YOU is that you do your job and work on the bigger picture issues. Let those professionals with Library Science expertise work together with local resources and publishers to ensure appropriate book collections. On a percentage basis, this legislation is targeting books based on only a few of those titles, considering the whole library systems. Why exert this effort? Do NOT involve state legislation where there are already processes in place at local levels. To make law to remove all books with sexual reference means our teens and young adults don't get to learn right from wrong through reading – good and bad. Reading provides access to those critical thinking skills. In a free market, books will check out or they won't. The process takes care of itself. We do not need state legislation when parental guidance should prevail. Additionally, please use Common Sense to address the most pressing issues – targeting library books and the educators that work hard and whom we need is not a solution.

Carol Schwartz

Self; Retired Life Science Educator

Richmond, TX

This type of educational material for students should be the sole responsibility of parents or guardians to share with their children. Having parents sign off on a document that allows their children to have the use of such material in a school setting does not insure that the material won't be shared by their child with other students whose parents have not signed such a document. Controlling the potential sharing behavior in a school setting would be most difficult and detract from other responsibilities already placed on overburdened educators.

Tracy Massey

Self - Parent

McKinney, TX

I support Texas school librarians who are highly trained professional educators that select books based on local policies, approved by our school board. I trust school librarians, not out-of-state vendors, to determine if content in books is appropriate. Parents, not the state, are responsible for determining what their children need.

Marissa Gough

Self

Austin, TX

I oppose this bill. I believe the choice of what books are in school libraries should be left to the librarians, not the state board of education.

Allison Craig
Self
Fort Worth, TX

Say NO to HB 900. Our public schools and librarians are qualified to decide which books go in our libraries and there are already processes in place for parents to opt their children out of checking out books they deem offensive. As a parent of elementary and middle school students, I trust my children's librarians to know what is right for our local community. Please say no to HB 900. Thank you.

Ned Luscombe
Self retired registered nurse
Gardendale, TX

I support this bill to prevent sexually explicit content from being released to children in schools

Laura Weaver
retired/self
The Woodlands, TX

My children attended public schools and now my grandchild is in a public schools. Our school system needs many things, like better funding, improved safety measures and greater access to counseling. But the school system does not need politically-motivated groups telling them which books they can read. I trust the librarians in our local schools to choose appropriate materials for our children, and I trust parents to determine what books their children read. If parental rights are important, then let parents in each community determine what is best for their local schools and for their children.

Helen Thompson
Mount Pleasant Public Library
Mount Pleasant, TX

I support Texas school librarians who are highly trained professional educators that select books based on local policies, approved by our school board. I trust school librarians, not out-of-state vendors, to determine if content in books is appropriate. And parents, not the state, are responsible for determining what their children read. Please do not take this out of the hands of the parents.

Justin Brady-Joyner
Self
Austin, TX

I urge you to oppose HB 900, as it will result in adding negative stigma to vulnerable groups, unnecessarily shamed and blames parents and public school librarians for making their own informed decisions, and takes clear steps towards censorship and limiting constitutional freedom of speech.

Pat Dietrich, Pastor
Self
Brenham, TX

I support Texas school librarians who are highly trained professional educators who select books based on local policies, approved by our school board. I trust school librarians, not out-of-state vendors to determine if content in books is appropriate. And parry, not the state, are responsible for determining what their children read.

Michele Nuckolls

Self

The Woodlands, TX

Please consider passing this bill. My focus is on public libraries, and I can tell you, it has gotten to the point where parents are telling me they don't even take their kids to the library anymore. It is just ridiculous. We must get this done, so that we can turn our attention to public libraries and make them safe for children. We are finding inappropriate material in the children's section. Please take action. Unfortunately, we cannot trust that our librarians will do the right thing. Perhaps they don't have time to read every book. Someone read that book, and KNEW what they were placing in our library. We must stop this predatory behavior!!!

Donald Canard

Self, IT System Administrator

Fort Worth, TX

As an Army veteran of the 82nd Airborne, I find HB 900 very disturbing. The regulation of books belongs in the hands of the child's parent NOT state government. If a parent feels a certain book is unsuitable for their child, that parent should take care of it. However, other parents may want that book available to their children. The state controlling what you can and cannot read is what we had in 1933, when one political party decided that they had the moral right to pick and choose what books were appropriate. If you don't know your history, just lookup "Nazi book burnings". You can find out more in your local library. That is if you have not burned them already.

Gina Woodlee

Biblical Citizenship Group

Arlington, TX

Hundreds of Arlington, Texas residents are also fighting this in the City of Arlington libraries. We unfortunately have a Democratic Mayor with a Library Director who refuses to acknowledge books with pornographic images (The Perv, Sex Criminals, The Love Bunglers, to name a few) as pornographic, when they clearly are, leaving them on the shelves in the adult section which are still accessible to all ages. Please pass this bill which should also include city libraries. Thank you.

Gran Patterson

Delf

Bastrop, TX

Please work to remove and prevent inappropriate sexually explicit books and materials from being in school libraries. Our job as parents and adults is to protect our children.

Holly Moore

Self

Spring, TX

Books serve as windows and mirrors. Mirrors that reflect one's lived experiences and windows into the lives of others. Many parents and adults are concerned that there are inappropriate books, books that violate the Texas penal code, that are offering a window to a world they don't want students exposed to. There is absolutely nothing wrong with this! Parents should absolutely have a say in their child's reading materials. Which is why it is wonderful that most districts have a committee in place to review materials parents may be concerned with. However, there is an issue with parents making decisions for all students, not just their own. More concerning is this belief that there are "illegal" materials on campus. In the district I currently live and where my children attend school, not one book that has been referred to the book reconsideration committee has been identified as obscene by any legal metric. Using this language is harmful and creates a harmful narrative regarding literature. Trust librarians. Trust parents. And most importantly trust those with professional expertise to make these decisions.

Lauren Davidson

self

Denton, TX

I support Texas school librarians who are highly trained professional educators that select books based on local policies, approved by our school board. I trust school librarians, not out-of-state vendors, to determine if the content in books is appropriate. And parents, not the state, are responsible for determining what their children read.

Amy Woodell, Mrs.

PTA

Austin, TX

I do not support HB900. I am against HB 900. As a parent, I feel confident that each school district can manage and screen its own books better than the state. I have a child in elementary and a child in middle school. The librarians at both are very clear when a book in book club for example "has mature content". The procedures for parents to individually inform the school(s) their child can not read a particular book are very clear. I think state policies to tell librarians which books they can stock is a huge government over reach and infringes on our rights. Also the books "in question" are the books many kids want to read! In an age where we have to beg our children to actually read, I am grateful there is something out there they will pick up. Two examples: My 13 year old recently started reading Stephen King which of course is very dark, violent and at times sexually explicit. With the librarian's help and long reviews online, I have determined which Stephen King novels are "ok" to me. Now my son who stares at his phone every chance he gets, is enjoying a book. 2nd example" Terrible Two series by Mac Bennett. This series is all about two pranksters in middle school who constantly usurp the principal's authority and disrupt school. It is hilarious. Both my kids have read and read this series. In the final book, the pranksters join up with the principal and prank his son, the school bully. (bit of a happy ending). What if these books were censored since they constantly undermine authority and school leaders? It is wrong to tightly control at the state level books. Let school districts locally and families make those decisions. No on HB 900

Karole Fedrick

Texas Eagle Forum and Self

Austin, TX

I am Karole Fedrick representing Texas Eagle Forum and myself in support of HB900.

The failure of past legislatures to pass bills that would protect Texas children from sexually explicit, harmful materials has led to a crisis of pornographic, vulgar, age-inappropriate books, videos, and other resources being made easily available for children to access.

These books are not like books of the past. Today the battle to protect the hearts and minds of children is being fought against a new level of depravity. The materials flooding the youth market are vulgar, often violent, with no redeeming educational value. They are, however, educational in that they do educate children about perverse depictions of human sexuality. The beauty of sexual intimacy will never be fully realized for them because of young minds warped by word images that can't be erased and pictures that can never be unseen.

Materials are developed by twisted adults who sexualize and groom children to become sexually aware and active at young ages. It is a problem created by adults and must be solved by adults.

I respectfully ask you to fulfill your responsibility to protect the children of Texas. Stop the flow of this psychological and mental abuse of children. Please vote in favor of HB900.

Thank you.

Kathryn Kelley

Self Coordinator of Student Agency and Engagement Austin ISD

Austin, TX

I have been a public educator in Texas my entire career, helping students navigate the difficult conversations and topics they will face in life, including interacting with others different from themselves. Currently, I serve in a role that uplifts student voices and opinions. I wholeheartedly agree that sexually explicit materials should not be distributed to minors, although I object to "minors" being designated as anyone under 21 years of age. I do not agree with LGBTQIA+ characters and "themes" being called "sexually explicit." Books should be mirrors that show us ourselves and windows into the lives of others. Imagine being a Queer student that never hears a story about someone like yourself, or a straight student who never reads about gayness humanized. Depriving students of experiencing diverse, and sometimes challenging, literature in their schools deprives Texans of future citizens who can collaborate together towards a brighter future.

Jamie Stoilis

Self

Victoria, TX

I strongly support HB900 because it prohibits harmful, sexually explicit materials in public schools

Edwina Himes

Self

Weatherford, TX

We do not need pornographic material to be in our Libraries school or public. If needed add age requirements to availability but the best would be no questionable, woke, suggestive books be allowed for our children to polite their vivid imaginations.

Sheri Williams, Ms.

Self

Fort Worth, TX

Restricting sexually explicit and inappropriate books and materials along with role play and activities from our libraries is essential to the health and well-being of our children. Please vote yes!

Crystal Duval

Parent of a 5th Grader

Spring, TX

I strongly support HB900 because it prohibits harmful.sexually explicit materials in our public schools. I never thought that I would have to supervise the books that my voracious 5th grade reader brings home. We moved back to Texas just not for jobs, but also the great schools to put our child in. My husband and I are greatly rethinking this and looking at taking our child out to homeschool, not just because of the books but the bullying going on. Please listen to us parents to help remove these books. Thank you.

Nancy Byrne

Self / Retired

Corinth, TX

The sexualization of Texas kids is abuse. Period.

Carolyn Mitchell, Rev
Texas Women for Justice
CONROE, TX

I support Texas school librarians who are highly trained professional educators that select books based on local policies, approved by our school board. I trust school librarians, not out-of-state vendors, to determine if content in books is appropriate. And parents, not the state, are responsible for determining what their children read. I am a concerned citizen whose children attended Conroe ISD.

Amanda Pape
self- retired state university librarian
Granbury, TX

I am a retired Tarleton State University librarian, with an MSLS (master of science in library science) degree, who was responsible for selecting children's literature used by university students in the teacher preparation program. My grandson is a Texas public school student, and my great-grandson (whose mother is a Texas public school teacher) soon will be. I support Texas school librarians, who are highly trained professional educators (they were classroom teachers first) as well as librarians, that select books based on local policies, approved by our school boards. I trust school librarians, not out-of-state vendors, to determine if content in books is appropriate for the students at their respective schools. And most importantly, parents, NOT the state, are responsible for determining what their own minor children read. NO one should limit the reading choices of other parents for their own children.

Judi Lubena
Parent
Yoakum, TX

I strongly support HB 900 to protect our children!

Ronnie White
Ronnie white. Self
Conroe, TX

I support this bill 100%

James Dennis
self
Austin, TX

Control over books in school libraries should remain local at the district/school level. People at the state level who are elected by the entire state's populace should not be the ones deciding what is appropriate for my district/community. My community elects my school board members, which means I have the strongest say in ensuring those people represent my values. Pushing for state control of local resources like this is decidedly un-Texan...don't tread on my school's library.

Theresa Garcia
Self
Austin, TX

I am opposed to House Bill 900 by Patterson to ban LGBTQIA+ books from school/classroom libraries in the state of Texas and make it so that book vendors who sell books with LGBTQIA+ characters can't sell to Texas schools.

Glenna Pocock
Self, retired
Abilene, TX

I support HB 900. Thank you, Representative Patterson

Judith Jones

Tarrant Eagle Alliance, TXAPN, Trinity Tribunal

Fort Worth, TX

I fully support restriction of sexually explicit, inappropriate, special interest group propaganda literature from all public education school libraries or use of them for instruction by teachers. Protect our children and leave intimate matters to parental instruction only.

Jacqueline Taylor

Self/Retired

The Woodlands, TX

I believe that our Texas school librarians are highly trained professional educators who choose books for our school libraries based on policies that are already approved by our school boards. I believe they are highly qualified to determine if the content of those books is appropriate for our children. I strongly believe that parents, NOT the state, should determine what their children should read. I am the grandmother of three elementary-aged school children, with three more who will be entering the Texas school system in the future. I believe they should be able to read what their parents deem appropriate for them. Please STOP micromanaging our school libraries! Trust our librarians and our parents! Focus on the issues that will increase compensation for school staff, ensure school safety, increase mental health support, and help them do their jobs properly. Thanks for listening.

Loretta Bear

Self, retired

Abilene, TX

I support HB 900 by Patterson. Thank you Representative Patterson for sponsoring this bill. God bless you.

Katharine Cameron

Self / Church Deacon

Brenham, TX

I am a parent of a Pre-K child who will soon be attending public school. I support Texas school librarians who are highly trained professional educators that select books based on local policies, approved by our school board. I trust school librarians, not out-of-state vendors, to determine if content in books is appropriate. And parents, not the state, are responsible for determining what their children read.

Heather Misener

Self

Victoria, TX

I strongly support HB900 because it prohibits harmful sexually explicit materials in public schools.
Thank you

Melissa Grzybowski

Self /concerned citizen

Pflugerville, TX

This bill is very problematic. I support Texas school librarians who are highly trained professional educators that select books based on local policies, approved by our school board. I trust school librarians, not out-of-state vendors, to determine if content in books is appropriate. And parents, not the state, are responsible for determining what their children read.

Danielle Stapleton

self

austin, TX

I support Texas school librarians and their expertise to decide which books should be available in public libraries. I do not trust out-of-state vendors to determine if the content is appropriate for my kids, or anyone else's.

Regulating books that stock our children's libraries is an overstep of government reach. PUBLIC libraries are just that - for the public, and not for an agenda or only one point of view. Let parents and families decide what their kids can check out of libraries - not the state or some company.

Priscilla DeGeeter, Mrs

Myself

Richmond, TX

We need to protect our children

Amanda Sylvie

Self

Austin, TX

I ask that you support HB 900. As a parent, it is heart-wrenching to send a child to school each day because we cannot know what our children will be exposed to. Sadly, school is no longer about teaching academic subjects. Teachers take our children to the school library, and this should be a way to promote reading rather than exposing our innocent children to vulgar, profane, and indecent sexual concepts, materials, and graphics. Alert parents can opt elementary age children out of sex education, but we cannot opt them out of library trips. HB 900 will at least help protect our children to some degree. Please support HB 900 and help protect our children in public schools.

Mitzi Higginbotham

Self

Reklaw, TX

I urge you to support and pass HB900. We need to protect our children's minds from the sexualization by the books in the libraries. This bill is an excellent first step to accomplish this. Of course there will have to be state standards set up to monitor these books because there are school boards that will not find anything offensive. Holding the publisher accountable is excellent. Often in a small school district the principal will order a box of books for the library from the publishing company. A principal does not have enough hours in the day to read these books nor can they afford a full time librarian for the libraries. They are trusting the company to send appropriate library reading material for students. Once again this is a good bill . Please support and pass HB900.

THANK YOU,

Mitzi Higginbotham

Retired Public School Principal

James Stokes

Self

Brenham, TX

I support Texas school librarians who are highly trained professional educators that select books based on local policies, approved by our school board. I trust school librarians, not out-of-state vendors, to determine if content in books is appropriate. And parents, not the state, are responsible for determining what their children read.

Paul Price
Retired
NEWTON, TX

I am requesting the House Education Committee carefully review HB900 (the Reader Bill) for approval and forwarding in the legislative process to a House vote. The bill supports Texas GOP platform priorities three and four banning gender modification of children and stopping sexualization of Texas kids, respectively.

Paul Price
Newton County Republican Party, Chair

Peter Flynn
Self
Pflugerville, TX

This is another manifestation of the right wing culture war in our state. Politicians of any stripe need to stay out of the morality of media of any sort. This is ultimately an infringement of free speech, and a slippery slope into government censorship. It's all a matter of point of view and the author of this bill has a particularly narrow one. When I was a kid I read many of the books Patterson would censor. It hardly had any impact on how I thought or behaved because I was raised by engaged insightful parents. My reaction at that time to controversial book? "Yawn." So much for the ridiculous fears behind this wasteful effort.

Mary Cunningham
Retired attorney/judge
Llano, TX

There should be no law exempting teachers, librarians or other educational institutions from laws related to publication, dissemination, or distribution of pornography, as set forth in the criminal code. A teacher should not be able to distribute material to children for which an ordinary person on a playground would be indicted and imprisoned or fined.

Erica Carver
Self
Lucas, TX

I fully support Mr. Patterson's bill and believe it is critical to the welfare of our children. Public schools should not be normalizing very inappropriate sexual behavior, gender disorders, and other sensitive material that should be taught at home, by parents. Protecting children from not having access to this material should be highest priority, not making it easily available in a public library, especially at their school. Thank you, Mr. Patterson, for boldly standing up for children & their innocence. Please pass HB 900. Sincerely, Erica Carver

Sharon Jorolan
Self
The Colony, TX

I strongly support HB900, it prohibits harmful and explicitly sexual content in public schools. This practice of promoting this kind of thing in public schools is a disgrace, it has to stop.

Nancy Robert-Knight, Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist

self

Kerrville, TX

If children have a natural curiosity about sex and yet cannot fully understand appropriate boundaries or thoroughly evaluate their own thoughts and actions, how can we expect them to develop appropriate attitudes and behaviors about sex on their own?

If media, institutions, and government believe they should decide what our children view and hear, why is research showing children's greater loss of innocence, depression, suicidality related to sexualization?

Should librarians decide what is appropriate? Librarians don't have the time, perhaps, not the training, or sometimes not even a level of interest needed to provide guidance for any child's ability to understand and use sexual material.

It is unconscionable for anyone to say or believe any of the above can. Only parents can truly control and choose appropriate materials for their child's developmental age and abilities.

That is why I ask you to take sexualized materials and education out of the schools and libraries and place them back in the hand of parents who are the ones to control these materials for their children

Sara Darden, Mrs.

Self

Grand Prairie, TX

I support Texas school librarians who are highly trained professional educators that select books based on local policies, approved by our school board. I trust school librarians, not out-of-state vendors, to determine if content in books is appropriate. And parents, not the state, are responsible for determining what their children read.

Did you know that:

-When purchasing items for a public school library collection, a certified school librarian must follow collection development policies adopted by their local school board.

-Locally adopted collection development policies for a public school library cover topics of content suitability.

-Public school libraries with an online library catalog provide professional reviews of books that are part of their collection.

-When deciding which books are suitable for their library collection, one tool certified public school librarians use are industry journals that contain professional reviews of books.

-Book purchases happen multiple times a school year. Orders typically take 1-2 months to arrive and then may require processing before they are ready for check-out.

-Certified public school librarians in Texas must have at least two years teaching experience before they are eligible for certification to work in a Texas public school.

-Texas certified public school librarians must have a master's degree. For most, this is a Master of Library and Information Science.

-Certified public school librarians in Texas are required to take courses on collection development which focuses on borrower demographics, assessing campus needs, literacy best practices, and understanding district guidelines.

-In addition to holding a master's degree, certified public school librarians must pass the School Librarian's TExES (Texas Examination of Educator Standards) exam as a requirement for their certification.

-Parents have access to a public school library's entire collection via their public-facing online catalog. This catalog is updated as books are added to the collection.

-Most Texas public school districts have adopted a reconsideration policy which involves a committee of parents, teachers and administrators who review library books when a concern has been raised.

-The Texas Reading/Language Arts TEKS require students to engage in self-selecting their own texts to read. The school librarian provides thousands of vetted and age-appropriate materials for students to master these required standards.

-School librarians serve all members of the school community and value partnering with families in identifying great books for their children. We strive to fully empower students to engage in their literacy and learning journey through the library.

-60% of students in Texas public schools are economically disadvantaged. Our school library resources help those with limited access to reading materials.

Pam Goodman

Public Education Committee

Magnolia, TX

I strongly support HB 900

Terry Senne
Self
Denton, TX

"I strongly support HB 900 because it prohibits harmful, sexually explicit materials in public schools."

Dr. Terry A. Senne

Reuben Najera
Self
Arlington, TX

I strongly support HB 900 because it prohibits harmful, sexually explicit materials in public schools.

Lorri Haden, Ms
Self
Austin, TX

I am writing to express my strong opposition to HB 900 and to urge all representatives voting on this bill to vote NO. This bill is clearly yet another politically motivated and hateful attempt by the state legislature to censor books with any LGBTQ themes, characters or content in public schools. Further, the bill would undermine the quality of our public schools and would restrict a student's ability to obtain access to books with any "sexually relevant material" that somehow survives the proposed new censorship standards. Chapter 33, Subchapter B of the Education Code, as written, ensures a sufficient balance of local and state control of standard setting for school libraries, and any attempt to impose these statutory restrictions is unnecessary and bigoted and grievously undermines local input on the standards appropriate for each school.

Brandi Cartwright
Self, self employed music teacher and mom
Nacogdoches, TX

I don't want a business rating to determine which books are selected for school libraries. Librarians are trained and skilled at picking out books that are appropriate for the age they serve. As a parent, it's my responsibility to monitor my child's reading, not the government's. I thought Texas was all about freedom, so this kind of control is not what I was hoping for when I moved here.

Amanda Price
small business owner / self
League City, TX

I oppose government overreach into first amendment rights. One helicopter parent's whim will not necessarily match another's, so catering to each minority opinion could result in no books at all.

Besides that, these days, kids are more likely to encounter malicious disinformation (and offensive content of all sorts) from online videos than in books. Therefore, giving them critical thinking skills to evaluate all media for truth, accuracy, and intent will be more valuable than censorship.

If you will defend American values of freedom and reason, and not descend in cowardice to tactics seen in North Korea and Iran, then I sincerely thank you.

LINDA LEE
self
Austin, TX

I do not support a bill that regulates the books sold to or included in public school libraries.

Sandy Newman

None

Bulverde, TX

As a retired teacher in Texas, I am opposed to any sexually explicit literature in our schools. I have three grandchildren who need to learn the basics like reading, writing, and math. The schools are not the parents and grandparents.

Evelyn Sher

Self/parent

Austin, TX

As a parent of a high schooler, I am adamantly against HB 900. Our skilled librarians are highly qualified to decide which books go in our libraries, and there are already processes in place for parents to opt their children out of checking out books they deem offensive. I urge you to say no to HB 900. Thank you.

Samantha Buford

Self

Palmer, TX

I strongly support HB 900 because it prohibits harmful, sexually explicit materials in public schools, which should have never been allowed in the first place.

Mary Loden

Self - Parent

Plano, TX

I am opposed to this bill. The current selection process for school library books overseen by competent and trained professionals is enough. This bill is nothing more than an attempt at censoring books that should be available to all students based on a small minority objection. Reading books from various viewpoints and life experiences enhances empathy and critical thinking. This bill only serves to undermine the education of all students in Texas. Please stop trying to make our students stupid and ignorant. It's bad for the kids and the state.

Vickie Dillow

myself

Waxahachie, TX

I am writing in support of HB900, a thorough and complete bill protecting our innocent children from indecent, objectionable material. It is a proven fact that sexually oriented material is harmful to a child's long term mental health. Our tax funded public schools should be the last place a child should be exposed to anything which would disturb their ability to function in a healthy productive manner. There are plenty of opportunities available to them outside the four walls of our public institutions. Please make it a priority to concentrate on providing them with the tools to be great leaders, like our forefathers. Please support this bill and take our responsibility seriously to protect the most precious and vulnerable in our midst.

Marty Walker

Self

Daingerfield, TX

I support HB 900. I children are be prayed upon by liberals.

Angie Alonzo, Md

Self

Victoria, TX

I strongly support HB900 because it prohibits sexually immoral books from harming innocent childrens minds.

Carmen Arif
Carmen Arif/Self/Real Estate Broker
Plano, TX

"I strongly support HB 900 because it prohibits harmful, sexually explicit materials in public schools."

Jamie Haynes
Texans Wake Up
Canyon, TX

HB 900 FOR
Please help protect children. Vote yes for HB900.

Farajallah Yazbek
self- scissors and knife sharpener
Amarillo, TX

This bill needs to include the wording that prohibits any and all introduction of sexually-oriented and/or explicit materials to anyone under the age of majority, as well as specifically removing the "educational purposes" exemption that currently exists. Removal of that exemption will allow the state officials to prosecute these pedophile offenders for introduction of pornography, including child pornography, to minors or other in an official way. The bill needs to codify punishment that demands a minimum of 20 years to lifetime imprisonment, plus one day, so that these people will realize they must do ALL their time before coming back into society. Then go after the administrators for putting this trash into the schools in the first place. Start by cutting off the funds from the school systems that have this stuff and then see how fast they get rid of it. Starve the school systems that are pushing this by denying any state funding for ALL programs until the systems come into compliance.

Kin Chan
self
Austin, TX

I strongly support HB 900 because it prohibits harmful, sexually explicit materials in public schools.

Randy Worrell
self
Eules, TX

I strongly support HB 900 because it prohibits harmful, sexually explicit materials in public schools.

Gretchen Abernathy-Kuck
Self, Parent of children who attend public school in Texas
Archer City, TX

I support Texas school librarians who are highly trained professional educators that select books based on local policies, approved by our school board. I trust school librarians, not out-of-state vendors, to determine if content in books is appropriate. And parents, not the state, are responsible for determining what their children read.

george doby, SFC ret
self, retired postal worker and military
cleburne, TX

while children will always be able to acquire porn it most definitely DOESN'T need to be in public school libraries. i'm very much opposed to this being done and very much in favor of this bill

Cindy Kusak
Self
La Salle, TX

Stop Texas public schools, including prohibiting schools from possessing, acquiring, and distributing materials considered sexually explicit and pervasively vulgar.
I strongly supports HB900.
Stop Sexualizing Texas Kids

Brice Taylor
self
Wharton, TX

I strongly support HB 900

Shann Turner, Vice Chair LCRP and Mom
Self Mom
Lexington, TX

I am against sexualizing our children in ANY way. Life is challenging in many ways, and our children, who just need to be children, don't need added confusion and filth pushed on them. We all wish life were more simple... LEAVE THE CHILDREN ALONE. Parents have the right to raise them.

Gentry McLean
Self, attorney
Austin, TX

This is more of the kind of bureaucratic nonsense driving teachers away from our public school system. I can't help but wonder if helping to destroy public schools isn't the real purpose. Please vote against this bill.

Earl Bishop
Voter
Marble Falls, TX

I support

Susan Moffat
Self
Austin, TX

Dear Committee Members,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to this bill, or any bill, that would ban inclusion of LGBTQ+ related books in public school libraries. As someone with gay family members, I know how important it is for children and teens to see themselves and people like them represented in a positive light in books and other media. It's also important as an educational tool for those who may not be as familiar with these issues, which can help prevent bullying.

School librarians and students are well equipped to make their own informed reading decisions without state interference. As a mother and brand new grandmother, I ask you to please not succumb to this culture war nonsense. Do not support HB 900.

Thank you for your consideration and for your service to Texas.

Maria D Flores
Self - Administrative Assistant
Katy, TX

Please protect our children from being groomed through books made available at our public schools.

Laurie Rickaway, Mother & Grandmother
families
Houston, TX

I respectfully request the passage of this bill in order to prohibit harmful, sexually explicit materials in public schools. Our children are having their innocence and childhood stolen from them by exposing them to materials they are not mature enough nor have enough life experience to deal with. We are creating a lot of emotional confusion for our children and we should be protectors of their innocence, mental health and emotional stability. Please pass this bill. Thank you.

Laura Proske
Self housemaker
The woodlands, TX

I strongly support HB 900 because books content that is sexual explicit damages young minds. Books that can't be read at a school board meeting due to explicit content shouldn't be at a school library.

Sara Royall-Sunderman
self, educator
Carrollton, TX

I am a certified school librarian, with two masters degrees. I support Texas school librarians who are highly trained professional educators that select books based on local policies, approved by our school board. I trust school librarians, not out-of-state vendors, to determine if content in books is appropriate. And parents, not the state, are responsible for determining what their children read.

Carolyn McClugage
Self
Leander, TX

Please pass HB 900. Thank you!

Katherine Armaos
Self
Spring, TX

I strongly support HB 900 because it prohibits harmful, sexually explicit materials in public schools where it Does Not belong. Teach Reading, Writing and Arithmetic in schools.

Annamarie Gervais
Self, Bookkeeper
Seguin, TX

I am testifying from personal experience in support of this bill. Exposing children to sexually explicit materials is abusive and traumatic. It results in distorted views and expectations of what ensures a healthy, loving intimate relationship and of what one's role is supposed to be in it. It forces an adult topic for which young people are not ready upon them, and in the process creates both abusers and victims. The practice of allowing sexually explicit books (and for that matter allowing access to any other such media) in public schools and their libraries should be fought as the act of evil that it is.

Jodie Marlow
Self
Canyon Lake, TX

I strongly support HB 900 because it prohibits harmful, sexually explicit materials in public schools. My grandkids and all children of Texas should not be allowed access to such books. Protecting the young developing minds of our children is of utmost importance for the future of our state, our country, and the world.

Nina Canales
Self-Library Media Specialist-Public High School
Dallas, TX

Texas librarians are highly trained and responsible for selecting and ordering books. We are trained in collection development and know which books our students are wanting to read. One of the purposes of school libraries is to foster the love for reading. We do not censor and support the Library Bill of Rights and the freedom to read what you want. Parents should be more involved and know what their kids are reading. Banning books or restricting books is not a professional or educational way of teaching our youth the value of reading. Censoring and banning fosters hate and bias.

I support Texas school librarians who are highly trained professional educators that select books based on local policies, approved by our school board. I trust school librarians, not out-of-state vendors, to determine if content in books is appropriate. And parents, not the state, are responsible for determining what their children read.

Gloria Wiggins
CWA
Alvin, TX

I strongly support HB900 because it prohibits sexualization of our children in schools

Quynh-Huong Nguyen
Woori Juntos
Houston, TX

My name is Quynh-Huong Nguyen, I am the Senior Communications Associate for Woori Juntos and current doctoral student.

I'm here to testify AGAINST HOUSE BILL 900. While the intention of HB 900 is meant to protect minors from inappropriate material, the potential negatives, such as infringement on free speech rights and the censorship of educational material, outweigh its potential positives.

By prohibiting acquisition, limiting access, and defining "obscenity" in an overly broad manner, this bill could prevent students from accessing important and informative literature that could be crucial for their education and intellectual growth. It puts the burden of determining what books are acceptable on publishers, which could lead to books being deemed "obscene" without due consideration of their educational value.

Furthermore, this bill's attempt to override First Amendment protections is deeply troubling. The First Amendment guarantees the freedom of speech and of the press, which includes the right to access information and ideas. By compelling schools to adopt the view that "obscenity is unprotected" by the First Amendment, this bill could lead to the suppression of important ideas and viewpoints that are critical for students to learn about in order to become informed and engaged citizens.

HB 900 is a deeply flawed and misguided bill that threatens the principles of intellectual freedom and free speech that are critical for any healthy democracy. I urge you to REJECT HOUSE BILL 900, as this bill limits the availability of educational materials in school libraries and negatively impacts the quality of education received by students. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Steven Wu, Organizing and Policy Manager

Woori Juntos

Houston, TX

Dear Chairman Buckley and members of the House Public Education Committee,

My name is Steven Wu, Organizing & Policy Manager of Woori Juntos, an immigrant rights organization advancing the safety of Asian and all immigrants across Texas, and I am here today as an accomplice for the LGBTQIA+ community and to testify against HB 900.

It's interesting. Texas has built this reputation of being a place for freedom, small government, and liberty. A place where we say that anyone has the right to live their life unrestricted by the powers that be. And yet here we are again where legislators are considering advancing policy that would push us closer to a world like Fahrenheit 451 or of authoritarian states eerily similar to the countries some members want to ban those citizens from attending college or purchasing land. And yet again, ANOTHER bill, out of 140, that directly attacks the existence of our LGBTQIA+ communities.

HB 900 goes to the extremes of requiring book vendors to rate books that contain "sexually explicit" or "sexually relevant" material, restricting books students can access at school libraries, and banning vendors from selling books with "sexually explicit" content. All in the name of keeping our children safe.

But in reality, this will hurt LGBTQIA+ youth seeking to read books that affirm their existence. This will compromise their mental health and sense of belonging.

Per a 2022 Trevor Project survey, three quarters of LGBTQIA+ youth experience anxiety, and more than half experience depression. The percentage of LGBTQIA+ youth who have experienced anxiety or depression and those who have considered or attempted suicide have all risen since 2020.

Books provide a space for us to find ourselves. They make us whole. They help us grow. They're crucial for development. They speak volumes even when we read them silently. They challenge us on societal norms. They embolden us to be better. To want to live in a world, in a Texas, where we don't have to look over our shoulders for just being who we are.

I think about the indomitable and brave queer community members, especially the youth, who have traveled hundreds of miles to the capitol and SHOWN out every single session to not just fight for progress, but to fight for their peace, safety, and justice. I think about a time in the future, I hope sooner than later, where that isn't required anymore. So they can live the life they've always wanted - with smiles and joy and their dreams attained.

If we actually care about the safety of our children and are not preoccupied with keeping up with Florida, then we should raise the age of purchasing firearms, restrict access to military grade weapons, repeal permitless carry, and invest more funding into mental health counseling and resources.

I urge you all to vote no on HB 900.

Melisa Valentin

Self

Austin, TX

Our librarians are qualified to decide which books go in our libraries and there are already processes in place for parents to opt their children out of checking out books they deem offensive. Please say no to HB 900. Thank you.

Bridget Moore

Self

Spring, TX

Please stop using politics and religious material to determine what is appropriate for school libraries. Let parents decide what books their children should read, not one person deciding for all the children. Books available should be representative of the whole, not the loud few with limiting beliefs.

Nicole Ma

<https://woorijuntos.org/>

Houston, TX

My name is Nicole and I am the Organizing and Policy Associate at Woori Juntos and a proud ally of the LGBTQ+ community. I am here today to testify against HB 900.

Weaving through the language of this bill, I could not help but to notice the extent used in an attempt to ban books about LGBTQ+ lives.

The language used in this bill in equating LGBTQ+ communities to “pervasively vulgar or educationally unsuitable” is invalidating and detrimental to entire communities, without consideration of their inclusion and their complex navigation in modern society.

The repression of thought and free speech is costly and taxing on our young generations. With exclusion and acknowledgement to more accurate representation of the LGBTQ+ community, I feel that it also violates the related to required curriculum, as referenced in Section 28.002, Education Code,

(28.002.2.b.ii: mental health, including instruction about mental health conditions, substance abuse, skills to manage emotions, establishing and maintaining positive relationships, and responsible decision-making;)

It is crucial to see oneself represented in a curriculum that touches on the importance of mental health and also maintaining positive relationships and everything else under this code to be able to see oneself and community and very real relationships within the guided context of education.

Writing out the LGBTQ+ community’s VALID emotions and experiences does not reduce the reality of their existence and does not make them disappear- it actively harms and victimizes a community of individuals, especially young, valuable, and brilliant minds.

The individuals and this community will not be silenced and should not be reduced to “pervasively vulgar or educationally unsuitable”. They are crucial human beings that historically, currently, and in the future will make significant impacts and contributions to the surrounding world. Most importantly, they deserve to be seen, heard, and learned about. They should not be written off, they should have a space and place within our society and children’s education.

Enough with the twists and turns in silencing entire communities of people because of personal agendas and “unfamiliarity.” I suggest keeping these books and perhaps engaging with communities of brilliant minds that offer valuable insight and value to education and what it can bring: enrichment, intellect, validation, and representation.

It is our responsibility to promote the wellbeing of our young minds with as much enrichment and fulfillment as possible. It is our responsibility as a society to ensure that our children feel seen and validated within their education, and they deserve to be safe and respected in our Texas education system.

LGBTQ+ people are not “educationally unsuitable” and acknowledging their existence is not “pervasively vulgar.”

Vote no on HB 900.

Ginny Brown Daniel, Rev. Dr.

Self

Spring, TX

This legislation is unnecessary as our public school librarians are highly educated and trained professionals, who know how to choose books appropriate for children in the age-range of their particular school. We must focus on the real issues of fully funding our public schools and compensating our teachers to retain highly competent teachers for our children throughout Texas.

john wallace
self--Farmer-Rancher
haskell, TX

I respectfully request that you pass these bills for the protection and safety of our children and the future of our state.
SB162, SB2, SB15, SB14, HB900, HB4278 THANK YOU

Kathleen Black
self
Burleson, TX

I strongly support HB 900 because it prohibits harmful, sexually explicit materials in public schools.

Dennis Scott
Self
Fulshear, TX

Sexually Explicit books have no place in Public Schools, PERIOD!

Kay Farmer
Self
Houston, TX

I very strongly support House Bill 900 because it prohibits sexually explicit materials in public schools. Please see that this is passed in the House.

Bettye Isbell, Mrs.
Self
San Antonio, TX

I strongly support HB 900 because it prohibits harmful, sexually explicit materials in public schools. Please pass HB 900.

James Rugg, Mr.
Citizen Awareness of the Restructuring of Education (CARE)
Burnet, TX

Approval supported. This stipulation should be extended to include classroom instruction as well.

Craig Massie
retired/self
Haltom City, TX

Books used in class and libraries should be determined at the local level by teachers, librarians, local school boards (persons with educational expertise). Parents should certainly be involved in this process and be able to determine what their children are reading. It is best kept at the local level.

Kimberly Hopkins, Library Media Specialist
Public school ISD
Bonham, TX

I support Texas school librarians who are highly trained professional educators carrying certification as a school teacher and a Master's degree in Library Science that they are highly trained to select books based on local policies, approved by school boards. I trust school librarians, not out-of-state vendors and not politicians, to determine if content in books is appropriate for their children and school population. Parents, not the state, are responsible for determining what their children can read.

AMY BUNDGUS

Self

LANTANA, TX

I am a Texas School Board Trustee but I am not commenting on behalf of my Board or my District. I am in support of needing a bill such as HB 900 but voicing concern that this bill requires changes to be truly effective. The bill notes the rating system for books to be "voluntary". That opt-in language must be removed. In addition, the bill uses the phrase "pervasively vulgar" which leaves room for interpretation that I am already seeing being abused at the local level. That phrase is often said to be "left up to interpretation" and is a loophole. The bill needs modification to be enforceable.

Paula DeBrill-Graham

Self

Irving, TX

When purchasing items for a public school library collection, a certified school librarian must follow collection development policies adopted by their local school board.

Locally adopted collection development policies for a public school library cover topics of content suitability.

Public school libraries with an online library catalog provide professional reviews of books that are part of their collection.

When deciding which books are suitable for their library collection, one tool certified public school librarians use are industry journals that contain professional reviews of books.

Certified public school librarians in Texas must have at least two years teaching experience before they are eligible for certification to work in a Texas public school.

Texas Certified public school librarians in Texas are required to take courses on collection development which focuses on borrower demographics, assessing campus needs, literacy best practices, and understanding district guidelines. certified public school librarians must have a master's degree. For most, this is a Master of Library and Information Science.

The Texas Reading/Language Arts TEKS require students to engage in self-selecting their own texts to read. The school librarian provides thousands of vetted and age-appropriate materials for students to master these required standards.

Research conducted by the National Council of Teachers of English indicates independent reading with self-selected texts is a key part of creating sustained literacy for students. School librarians provide high quality independent reading texts for students.

School librarians serve all members of the school community and value partnering with families in identifying great books for their children. We strive to fully empower students to engage in their literacy and learning journey through the library.

*60% of students in Texas public schools are economically disadvantaged. Our school library resources help those with limited access to reading materials.

Marilyn Herring

self

Victoria, TX

I strongly support HB900 because it prohibits harmful, sexually explicit materials in public schools!

Richard Milby, Pastor
Corpus Christi Cross, INC
Corpus Christi, TX

1. Sexual explicit cartoon pictures has NO PLACE in the classroom or Libraries of public education.
2. There is NO SUCH THING as age appropriate Sex Education for ages Pre-K thru 11 years old.
Picture a 4 yr old child, holding an action figure, toy horse, or a doll discussing sex. ??????
3. Introducing ANYTHING other than male or female gender is idiocy. When the remains of a human are found, they are identified as Male or Female.
No other!
If you can't figure this out, you do NOT belong on this committee. No disrespect, just common sense.

Laura Milby, Mrs.
Corpus Christi Cross, Inc.
Corpus Christi, TX

As a concerned grandparent, I urge you to support HB 900. I have had the unfortunate opportunity to view material in library books on the shelves of one of our local school districts,. This material is unfit for use in any instructional setting in public or private education, at any grade level. It is clearly pornographic in nature, and would appear to be used to groom and confuse our youth about their identity, both in gender and sexuality. Public education should focus on "ACADEMIC EDUCATION" required to prepare our children to become successful adults. Students should not be used as a tool of any political party to derail the emotional stability of our youth, and the filth that has been uncovered in many schools across the state of Texas has revealed that is the end result of these books. Give our children a chance by supporting HB 900. Our future depends on it!

Kacy Davis
self
Trophy Club, TX

I supported not allowing schools to purchase explicit material. However, what is the definition for the possibly explicit material?

Susan Thorson
Myself
Austin, TX

I am so very opposed to the idea of exposing our children to sexually based books in our schools!!!

Lynn Goodson
self
Houston, TX

I strongly support HB900 because it prohibits harmful, sexually explicit materials from being available to children in their most vulnerable and formative years. Please protect Texas school children.

Lucy Hooker
Self- retired teacher
Dallas, TX

Please support HB 900 which will provide a way to set standards for the books in the libraries of Texas school children. This bill would set up state-level library standards. Also referred to as the Restricting Explicit and Adult- Designated Educational Resources Act, it would put the burden on vendors to rate books with sexual content. If the vendor does not rate the book correctly and it ends up in a school library, the vendor's ability to sell books to Texas schools could be revoked. As a former elementary school teacher of 37 years, I fully support clear standards for the books in our school libraries. There are far too many books that have sexual content unknown to parents of minor children. I have always been an advocate of the parents' rights to determine what sort of content their child can be exposed to at school. This particularly holds true of books with sexual content. Many parents would be shocked if they read some of the books that their children are being exposed to at school. I do not believe that this is a standard for the State of Texas' school children. Sincerely, Lucy Hooker former teacher

Gena Jennett
Self
Arlington, TX

I strongly support HB 900 because it prohibits harmful, sexually explicit materials in public schools

Laura Rosen
Self
Austin, TX

I'm very concerned about this bill. Librarians need MORE support not more scrutiny. And children need access to a diverse array of perspectives and backgrounds in their books, and it's harmful to regulate books like this bill is proposing.

Lisa Jones
Self
Houston, TX

I strongly support HB900 because it prohibits harmful, sexually explicit materials in public schools.

Donna Finley
Myself
Nacogdoches, TX

I strongly support HB 900 because it prohibits sexually explicit material in public schools!

Matthew Long
Self
Weatherford, TX

Dear Committee,

I am a 5th generation Texan and 40 Year-Old Father of 7 and counting. My waking hours are spent providing for physical needs and protecting the emotional and spiritual innocence of my young children. 6 of them are under the age of 8 and have yet to be confronted with the materials we are discussing today. Because of our diligence and by the grace of God, my wife and I have been able to keep them out of the public school system and public library realm in order to specifically protect them from these types of materials and ideologies.

I understand that there are other children that do not have the same opportunity that my children do and my heart breaks for them. Why? Because while I am not a man ruled and controlled by pornography and fantasies I can remember the very first pornographic image that I stumbled across while exploring a creek behind my house.

I do not have a photographic memory, yet this image has remained seared in my conscience for 30 years now. This is not because I want it there, but because these images are dangerous and have lasting detrimental effects on young people. I pray this committee takes it upon themselves to end the exposure of our children to these vile and evil images. Please, take it upon yourselves to see this is a problem and step up and stop it today.

Sincerely,

Matthew C. Long

Shelley McCarty, Mrs.
Self
Aledo, TX

I strongly support HB 900. It Prohibits harmful sexually explicit material for children in public schools.

James Skarzynski, Mr.

Self

Richmond, TX

Please vote YES on this bill. We need to stop Sexualizing Texas Kids. Thank you in advance.

Brenda Bush

Self

Houston, TX

I support the REMOVAL of sexually provocative language books from all Texas school libraries and further exposure of such harmful literature in the future.

Laura Suffield, Mrs.

The children!

Houston, TX

I strongly support HB900! We need to protect our Texas children from harmful, sexually explicit material. Thank you.

Philip Gray

Self

Al, TX

I strongly support HB 900 and sincerely encourage the legislature to do the same. The danger of continued and increased exploitation of our children has never been more prevalent and the protections that this bill provides takes a necessary step in the direction of securing the ethical and moral integrity of such little ones. No institution apart from the nuclear family has the authority under God, be it divine, natural, or common law, to expose children to such sensitive topics as their sexuality unless that authority has been expressly delegated and defined by such rightful authority (i.e. the parents). I will not, and no one should, support and defend any practice that subverts the physical, emotional, mental, and spiritual well-being of our children. Please consider the implementation of this bill as one step among many to curb the assault upon our future generations by those that seek to recreate the world in their own debaucherous image at the expense of the most precious and innocent lives in our communities. Let not the literature of our institutions crater the thinking of our children; let it be that which expands the mind and elevates the heart. We do not teach our youth the dangers of crime by giving them over to the cartels; nor should we teach them of their nature by handing them over to the perversions of those who hate nature. Our children are not our property, they are our responsibility. I therefore implore you, as delegated stewards of the well-being of this Texas that I love, to forsake any and all efforts to subvert the innocence of the young and secure as best you can their freedom to learn at the hands of those whom their parents deem most pleasing to Almighty God.

Neysa Briggs

Self employed

Houston, TX

I wholeheartedly support this bill.

Anne Wolfe

Self

Irving, TX

I strongly support regulating/prohibiting sexually explicit books for public school libraries because a) we have an epidemic of pornography; b) all such material can be found online...Our taxpayer-supported schools do not need to promote this. c) Mission of Education is to expose our children to the BEST; d) American schools are lagging behind many other nations in reading, mathematics, writing, general knowledge of the world, etc. Let's promote library books that challenge the intellectual development of our students.

There is NO need for sexually explicit books to be in school libraries. All this info is available online if an individual student and/or family desires it.

John McCleskey, Mr.

Self

Magnolia, TX

Dear Representatives, thank you for taking a moment to review my comments regarding this very important piece of legislation. As a parent and grandparent of school age children, I've come to understand that it has become increasingly difficult to protect the minds of our children from material that is considered harmful. I believe this piece of legislation will help protect our Texas children from the radical agenda to destroy objective truth as it relates to human sexuality. Law is often our way of protecting those in our society that cannot speak for themselves and children would certainly fall into that category. We who have lived life and understand the complexities and harms must do all that we can to protect our future generations. Thank you!

Elaine Melendez

Self

Friendswood, TX

I strongly support HB900 because it prohibits harmful, sexually explicit materials in public schools. CHILDREN do not need to be exposed to anything SEXUALLY explicit at any school/grade. This war against our children must stop.

Abraham George, Chairman

Collin County Republican Party

Plano, TX

Collin County Republican Party strongly supports HB900.

Jeanne Gall

Self

Richardson, TX

I support this bill.

Richard LeGrand

Charmed Labs

AUSTIN, TX

I oppose HB 900. Please vote NO. Thank you.

Alexandra Stallings, Mrs

Self

Converse, TX

Please support HB 900 that prohibits sexually explicit content in schools!

Janice Schafer

self - administrative assistant

Canadian, TX

I support HB 900 because I do not feel that public educational facilities are the correct place to deal with sexual issues. As a grandparent it infuriates me to think that my grandsons and daughters would be subjected to sexual content by a public school employee.

Katherine Regis

Self

Wimberley, TX

I oppose HB900. I don't know of any governments that have been remembered well in history because they removed books from libraries. I have read several of the books being removed by school districts in Texas and all of them have been excellent books and are well worth reading in their full context. I wish these books were available to me when I was a student in the 1960s and early 70s. Just because one person doesn't like a book, they shouldn't have the authority to prevent anyone else from reading it. Please don't pass HB900

Maudie Tarver, Mrs

Parent, Grandparent, Texan

Burleson, TX

I support NOT allowing any sexually explicit books, materials, curriculum, or talks to be present in any school library in the state of Texas

That education subject is the exclusive right of the parent and what they want for their children to learn and when they want them to learn it, and from what source

Voter # 10343 72908

Jennifer Easterday

self

Pflugerville, TX

As a former teacher, current parent, and someone who knows her way around schools and libraries, I implore you to vote "no" on HB 900. Reading is the gateway to ALL learning and sadly, the children of Texas are woefully lacking in this skill. For students who will later struggle in history, math or science, early reading competence is the best prescription and preventative. Poor ability as an early reader is one of the surest guarantees of academic struggles later. Kids like to read texts that are interesting to them and need a wide range to choose from. The more kids see themselves in literature, the more apt they are to connect with it and keep reading. I can tell you now that if librarians put dollar bills in books in school libraries, there are a lot of students who would still never darken the door. Do you honestly think kids are going to check out books about struggling teens or marginalized groups to become sexually aroused, especially when seeing actual, real porn on a phone is one second and "Hey, look at this" away? And especially when the books in question are not written to be in any way titillating in this manner? There are current systems in place in all Texas districts and schools to vet and process parent complaints. Please re-read that sentence. What is HB 900 really trying to accomplish? It is a solution in search of a problem. I went to a public library once and saw a clearly religious family (identifiable by dress). The parents simply didn't let their kid check out certain books. If parents don't want their kids to read certain books, they can have a daily backpack check (as many currently do anyway for school papers) and return any books they don't want their kid to read. The Moms for Liberty types do NOT represent most Texans. They have an outsized voice not commensurate with the size of their membership. Frequently, they haven't even read the books they object to. If HB 900 goes through, I guarantee you it will only be the beginning. Parents who actually DO read will make it a point to wreak havoc with the system (I will be among them). You will need to ban almost the entirety of Shakespeare (sonnets to a young man, Hamlet's exchange with Ophelia that saucily refers to "country matters" when talking about lying in her lap and the line that "nothing" is "a fair thought to lie between maid's legs." Lady MacBeth's "Unsex me here..." The Canterbury Tales and on and on it goes. Much of the English and American canon will have to go. Texas vastly underfunds its public schools and its students underperform against national peers--often ranking close to the bottom. People will think twice about moving to a state where their kid is going to get a subpar education and where legislators bend and scrape to the will of a loud, ill-informed minority.

Julie Fry
Self
Cypress, TX

The students and parents in our public school need help identifying highly inappropriate books in our school libraries. In my child's district, CyFair ISD, there are many pornographic or highly inappropriate books such as Flamer in the Young Adult section. Our district allows the parents to simply opt out of the entire Young Adult section. How is this fair for the students either be subject to highly inappropriate reading material or no books at all? How are the students going to know what is a good book or an inappropriate book by looking at the cover? It would be best if pornographic and highly inappropriate books were not in Texas School libraries, but this would help students and parents make an informed decision before selecting books. After all movie theaters have a rating system and school libraries should be at least as safe as the movie theater.

Cathy Bernsen
personal
Robstown, TX

RE HB 900. As a retired teach and elementary school Guidance Counselor, our education system has an obligation to protect our children both from physical harm, but also mental and emotionally lies against their sexual health. I strongly believe that you must guard against the lies promoted in HB 900

Cynthia Dwyer
self, unemployed
Fort Worth, TX

I am vehemently against this bill. Texas school districts and librarians are fully capable of determining the books that are purchased to place on bookshelves for public school students to read. This bill is an overreach by the state of Texas. The reading needs of students in the state of Texas varies by individual students interests and needs. Restricting books that are offered to Texas school is suppression of speech. The parents who are virally against a group of books made available in Texas schools should focus on their own children, period. Perhaps these voal parents can opt their children out of access to school libraries or move to private school or home school if they are offended by the very notion of their children gaining access to a book, they find offensive. The minority should not dictate for the majority of Texans. In 1933 book bans/burnings were implemented in Austria and Germany in opposition to books deemed counter to the ideologies of Nazism. Are we no better than Nazi's if we restrict books with content or subject matter that we disagree with? Books are the focus of this bill now. What is next? Do better! This bill needs to die in committee.

Linda Hanratty
individual
FORT WORTH, TX

I oppose this bill as too broad thus probably restricting the purchase of books for school libraries that would provide value to students. In addition, requiring schools to review books every six months would cost the school districts funds they simply don't have. Most already have cut school librarian positions or forced librarians to teach classes due to teacher shortages. Let the parents that object to these books prohibit their children from checking them out, but don't ban the books for the remaining students. Book bans on principle are bad because they restrict people from being exposed to varying ideas. Given all the sex and violence in one-line and broadcast media, children will likely be exposed to much worse things than are in the books banned under this proposed law.

Christina Chan
self
AUSTIN, TX

Please vote no on HB 900. Thank you.

Deborah Voorhees
Dr. Deborah J. Voorhees
College Station, TX

I strong OPPOSE HB900. Children go to school to learn. Teaching or reading about a different way of life, for example a member of a tribal community, does not create a tribal student. Watching Pinocchio doesn't cause children to believe their noses will grow when the lie or dolls are alive. This bill is an anti-education bill.

Librarians need MORE support not more scrutiny. And children need access to a diverse array of perspectives and backgrounds in their books! We go to school to learn about people and places that are different than those we know about. It is harmful to regulate books like this bill is proposing. Oppose it please!

Scott Nickerson, Mr.
self
Fort Worth, TX

I strongly support HB 900 because it prohibits harmful, sexually explicit materials in public schools.

Shirley Means
Self
Yoakum, TX

I strongly support HB 900 to stop sexuallizing our Texas kids and this bill will prohibit sexually explicit materials in public schools.

Robert Johnson, atty
self, attorney, parent with children
Corpus Christi, TX

I support HB 900

Richard Obrosky
Belmont Enterprises Inc
Magnolia, TX

I believe that we from need to protect our children from adult materials. I strongly support HB 900 because it prohibits harmful, sexually explicit materials in public schools.

Erica Lawrence
self
Spring, TX

My name is Erica. I am a Native Texan, mother to 4 school-aged children who attend public schools. We have lived all over Texas: Alice, Corpus Christi, Addison, Mansfield, Benbrook/Aledo, Justin/Roanoke, and now in The Woodlands. This proposed legislation is a waste of time and energy. We already have rules in place regarding books sold to public school libraries. Please stop trying to micromanage. The TSLC and SBOE ALREADY developed library standards in 2018. These standards say: "Texas school libraries promote, develop, and facilitate age-appropriate access to all expressions of knowledge, opinion, and intellectual activity." Librarians are trained to evaluate suitability, and parents should make the final determination of what is suitable for their child. Parents already have the option to review the books their student checks out from the library and to opt out if they wish. All parents have the right to allow their children freedom to read!

Cindy Armstrong
Self, retired
Austin, TX

I strongly support HB 900 because it prohibits harmful, sexually explicit materials in public schools.

Sandy Bagwell

self - analyst

Lubbock, TX

Please SUPPORT this.

Helen Tomb-Taylor

Self

Conroe, TX

The pornography in schools MUST STOP. Teachers that place these pornographic material must be reported. Teachers reported x 3 must never be employed or teach in any Texas state supported teaching institution, including colleges. These reports should follow any request for employment in any teaching institution.

Randall Woodman

Self, Software Developer

Allen, TX

I strongly support HB 900. Sexually explicit material does not belong in school.

Jessica Montague

Self. Therapist

Keller, TX

Children should have the option to learn about sexually explicit and mature information at home with their family. My faith AND science guides my decision making. As a Christian, I do not want my children to be taught information outside of my beliefs. I can still teach them to love and respect others even though we may not always agree. THIS IS MY RIGHT AS THEIR PARENT. Science tells me that children's brains are not fully developed until much older. Therefore they should not be subjected to information until they are mature enough to fully understand and process it; and have a trusted adult help them process. Please do not create an atmosphere where Christians are forced to remove their children from great public institutions and schools due to the too forward, and dangerous decisions like allowing access to this far too mature material.

Karen Plante

Self... retired

Sealy, TX

I strongly support HB 900 because it prohibits harmful, sexually explicit materials in public schools."

Nydia Reveles

Self, homeschool teacher

El Paso, TX, TX

I am vehemently against HB 900 as it is a clear and direct violations of student's FIRST amendment "rights to receive information and ideas." Federal courts have already ruled this type of legislative ban attempt unconstitutional and I am sure this will be that case with HB 900 if passed. Legislators know this and are purposefully wasting our tax payer's time and money on hateful and discriminatory legislation to further their discriminatory agenda against already vulnerable and marginalized groups of which my family a member. Please vote NO on HB 900.

Jill Mazza

Self/small business owner

Belton, TX

We need sexuality explicit books out of public schools.

Robert Eskridge
Self
Round Rock, TX

I strongly support HB 900 because it prohibits harmful, sexually explicit materials in public schools.

Marilyn Thompson
Self
Richmond, TX

We support this, please uphold our Christian morals and values in our state!

Gary Agan
self - Retired
Richmond, TX

I care for the our schools and students and I support this bill.

Michael Burdick, Pastor
self
Fredericksburg, TX

I strongly support HB 900 because it prohibits harmful, sexually explicit materials in public schools.

susan Pecor
Self
Montgomery, TX

HB 900: I strongly support HB 900 to prohibit harmful, sexually explicit materials in public schools and public school libraries. This HB 900 should state bans such materials not just regulate. Thank you.

John Max Thompson
Self
Richmond, TX

I have young nieces and nephews in the public school system. Please vote for the approval of HB 900 to protect our youth in this state and uphold Christian morals, beliefs and values!

Susan Valliant
myself
Arlington, TX

I am in favor of HB 900 and getting rid of the pornographic novels in our schools. There should be a rating system on the books so Librarians will have an easier time choosing what books are appropriate and which ones are not. Please vote in favor of HB900 and protect our children's innocence.

Christy Baca, Consultant
None
Sherman, TX

For

Lois Campbell, mrs
Self
Leesburg, TX

Regulating books included in public school libraries and textbooks!!

Maureen Voosen
self - public education parent
Austin, TX

I support Texas school librarians who are highly trained professional educators that select books based on local policies, approved by our school board. I trust school librarian, not an out-of-state vendor, to determine if content in books is appropriate. Parents, not the state, are responsible for what their students read, and already have the ability to determine which books their children are able to access from school libraries.

Amanda Place
Harris County Public Library
Spring, TX

Hello, I am a Children's Services Librarian in a Texas public library system, and parent of two children who attend public school; I support Texas school librarians who are highly trained professional educators that select books based on local policies, approved by school boards. I trust school librarians, not out-of-state vendors, to determine if content in books is appropriate. Also, parents, not the state, are responsible for determining what their own children read. I implore you to make a decision on this matter that will benefit students' right to read and ensure their continuing education. Thank you for your time!

Shirley Edwards
Self
Orange, TX

Vote yes on this bill. To remove sexuality explicit books from our school libraries,not allowing any farther books of this type to be purchased. Do this immediately!!!!!!

Mark Kierklewski
Self
Round Rock, TX

I strongly support HB900 because it prohibits harmful, sexually explicit materials in public schools.

Amianne Bailey
Mesquite ISD
FORNEY, TX

As a high school public librarian for the last 14 years, I am against HB 900 because it undermines my professional qualifications as a Master-degreed librarian who is trained in following the approved collection development policies of my local school board. I do not think that out-of-state vendors should decide what Texas children should/should not read. This decision should be made by parents with the help of the knowledge of a trained librarian like myself. As you consider HB 900, please ensure that school districts don't lose the local ability to build collections that inspire learning, support student achievement, and are tailored to the specific needs of the students.

Brandywine Reyes, Former Teacher in Cy Fair ISD and Tomball ISD
Self, homeschooling parent of two middle school girls
Cypress, TX

As a former educator in the public school system, we **MUST** prioritize protecting our students from sexually explicit material that is being allowed under the guise of "educational purposes". Age appropriate needs to mean something!!!

Sarah Fields, President of Texas Freedom Coalition

Texas Freedom Coalition

Whitehouse, TX

Sexual abuse, molestation or consistent exposure to adult interactions, (not referring to accidentally walking in on adults engaged in sex), even if the child is not being touched, can contribute to psychological damage. What is not often taken into consideration is early exposure to pornography and the traumatic impact it may have.

When children are exposed to pornography, arousal is imprinted via epinephrine and can be challenging to obliterate. In the case of middle and high school age children, they will find it compelling and want to learn more. These curiosities will encourage the following behaviors

- * Pre-mature sexual interactions with peers
- * Grooming by adults for sexual interaction
- * Confusion about healthy expression of sexuality

In “Laura Dean Keeps Breaking Up with Me”, the character is a minor who gets pregnant by a married man. It’s pedophilia and has no place in a school library accessible to minors. As well as the 100s of other books we have found through out Texas.

The bluest eye depicts rape from a rapists point of view on a minor.

From an educated standpoint (I have an MS In psychology and a Bach in Gerontology) and a moral standpoint, these books are dangerous and have no place in a school library.

Starting from the moment you take your first breath, the brain is in an intense learning phase. As we experience the world around us, we soak it all in. This is why it seems that toddlers are quite literally in awe of everything. Two of the most important parts of our brain are the limbic system and the prefrontal cortex. The prefrontal cortex is the rational part of our brain. This area of our brain is used for logical thinking, abstract thought and behavior regulation. Imagine what happens when this part of the brain is being suppressed? The limbic system is the survival part of our brain. Trauma and sexual exposure will cause the brain’s limbic system to go into a perpetual state of fight or flight. If trauma from sexual abuse and exposure occurs during childhood or teenhood, the brain’s development is hindered. A child will see the world as unsafe...even after threats of imminent danger have faded. So consider how much worse it must be when a child is constantly introduced to sexual abuse and grooming...Regardless of where they turn, whether it be TV, the Internet, or by a criminal that is attempting to groom and sexually abuse them. (We know these predators are everywhere).

Our children are in great need of protection. They should feel safe. Why would we make them more psychologically susceptible by allowing them full access to vulgar, pornographic materials within a place that is supposed to be completely safe? I believe every person who cares about children would want safe schools.

I strongly support HB 900. Thank you for taking the time to read my comment.

Sincerely, Sarah J Fields.

Rhonda Craig

Self

Nacogdoches, TX

Do not allow sexually explicit books in our public schools.

Margaret Smith

self

Rockport, TX

I strongly support HB 900. I feel it is extremely important to protect all children, now and future generations, from the effects of sexually explicit books in our public schools. No child should have access to this type of material anywhere, especially in a public school or public library, which is supported financially by tax dollars. This is the right and moral position to take. Do you want your child or grandchild to have access to this type of material? I sure don't.

Thank you.

Anne Newman

self/consultant

Fair Oaks Ranch, TX

Please vote HB 900 to protect parental rights and to protect children's innocence. Texas Family Code 151 gives parents the right to direct the moral and religious education of their children. Please respect this right.

katharine nance

self

bells, TX

I support HB900

Kathy Ponce

Self

Maypearl, TX

I support HB900

Mary Hastings

Self

Lufkin, TX

As adults it is our position in educational content in schools teach the core curriculum to promote productive adults in society. We should also to protect our children and teens, not to desensitize them to sexual or immoral content that takes away from the learning objectives in the educational setting.

Joy Roberts

Grayson County Conservatives

Howe, TX

I am in full support of HB 900. Please protect Texas children from sexually explicit material in school libraries. This is not about banning books. The books would still be available for purchase. This is about making it so that it isn't easily accessible to minors. This is no different than keeping children safe from harm.

Lyra Justiss

Self

Grapevine, TX

We need to protect our children from sexually explicit material. They need to be kids, free to learn about their world in a wholesome manner.

Lesley Pyle
self - business owner
Spring, TX

We are strongly for protecting children from sexually explicit books in schools. We do not believe pornographic and other very inappropriate materials should be in our public schools.

Jennifer Powless
Self
HOWE, TX

I support HB 900, which would protect children from sexually explicit materials in public schools.

Bonnie Wallace
Self; retired
Llano, TX

Yes!!!! Full support!

Valerie Breaux
Greyson County Republicans
Montgomery, TX

I'm in full support of HB 900. I want to protect Texas children from sexually explicit material in school libraries, which would cause them harm.

Brigid Kosek
self, school librarian
Fort Worth, TX

I think that everybody agrees that sexually explicit material does not belong in school libraries and, on the surface, this bill seems like a good idea to the average person. However, the definition of "sexually explicit" is vague and varies from person to person. Many books that feature lgbqt+ characters are being targeted as sexually explicit by some even if there is no sexual content other than the knowledge that a character is something other than heterosexual. In this respect, an agenda is being pushed that has more to do with sexual orientation than actual sexual content. This is a slippery slope. Please do not package intolerance as something morally correct. All children should be able to make a connection to literature by seeing themselves and their families reflected in the books they read.

Emily Stanford
Self / Self Employed
Dallas, TX

When it comes to state spending on education, Texas trails the national average by over \$4,000 per student, earning our state an F-rating and ranking 42nd in the nation in per-student spending. The impact of underfunding our public schools will be long-lasting.

Texas is failing to graduate one out of every five students – which translates to losing 10 students per hour. The impact this will have on our state's future economy will be long-lasting.

Our state's own assessment results indicate 64% of fourth grade students did not meet grade level for reading in 2021. The impact of not addressing our children's reading comprehension will be long-lasting.

Texas ranks 2nd in the nation for most school shootings. The impact of not addressing school safety and sensible gun control will be long lasting.

The impact of our political leadership focusing on banning books and book vendors rather than the above will be long lasting.

We need to put the focus back on what really matters. HB900 is smoke and mirrors, shadowing important issues in our state that will have bigger and longer lasting impact on the future of our state's citizens welfare and earning potential. Stop the smoke and mirrors.

Misty Odenweller, Conroe ISD Trustee
Misty For CISD
Spring, TX

As a trustee this would help me. As a district need this added help to protect our children. I'm battling ignorance and lack of desire to make changes. We need this bill.

Kristine Reyna
AFT
Laredo, TX

As a public educator, I am writing today because I want all to vote against House Bill 900. I currently teach English to high school students in Laredo, TX. I understand the concern of reading subject matter in classrooms that should instead be discussed at home, but, unfortunately, many of the parents I work with (and parents of the US in general) are so overworked and have very little time to talk to their kids at all, much less to teach them about critical subjects, such as sex. Sadly, that's why at my school we have so many kids who have children of their own, because they don't know about the consequences of sex. There isn't even any classes available that teach about sexual health. For these reasons, I think the state should continue to rely on their school districts to decide what is appropriate and inappropriate to read in the classroom. This bill, along with any effort to ban any book in classrooms, sets a dangerous precedent where we are failing our kids by not discussing real life issues they are likely to encounter through fiction and nonfiction. It's important for each district and school to decide what readings will most engage our students, specifically, as well as which readings will help students feel represented in media, which will further their interest in learning. Thank you for your consideration.

Rod Madden
Self
Georgetown, TX

I support HB 900 because it protects children

Aldin Stokes
Self
Corpus Christi, TX

We need this to pass by the widest majority

Vadim Timinsky
Self
McKinney, TX

I strongly support HB 900 because it prohibits harmful, sexually explicit materials in public schools.

Linda Ogden
Self
Conroe, TX

To all this may concern:

Sexual material of any sort has absolutely no place in public education. Any sexual education should be done strictly by the parent(s). Please eliminate any sexual indoctrination from all Texas school systems immediately.

Thank you for doing what is right for Texas children.

Sonya Richardson
Self
Sherman, TX

Please make this a top priority- we are tired of our children being sexualized!

Neal Trantham, Mr.
Self
Denison, TX

Please support this bill to protect my grandchildren and all Texas children!

Beatriz Cannon

Self

Houston, TX

To all Representatives,

It's incomprehensible to me that the House Public Education Committee has to hold a hearing regarding such an egregious topic as it is to regulate "sexually explicit material" sold to, or included in, public school libraries.

How is it possible that a Bill has to be passed, in order to prohibit that which should not even be an issue.

Why would anyone give consent to such perverted material to even be considered in the libraries, in the schools or even in the homes or our children. Are we trying to poison their minds? In case you didn't know it, and I'm sure you do, pornography makes a chemical imprint in the brains of all who watch it, imagen such filth in their tender young lives, and for that matter in yours.

The research is out there, if you care, look I up.

Is the purpose of our education system to bring up honest, moral, creative, children with integrity and with a zest for life, or, is it what we are seen daily, people who hate our country and are trying to destroy it?

We are being ruled by evil, there is no doubt about it.

How can you justify spending your time in debating that which is obviously malevolent. You as elected officials are appointed to represent and take care of the well being of the people, instead you are wasting your time and the hard earned money from tax payers, who are currently struggling in an economy which is down spiraling, can you justify your actions?

Your duty Sir, Madam, should be that of protecting our children, don't you have some of your own, whether children or grandchildren? In case you didn't know it, we reap what we sow and it's really not looking good for this country and all our future generations.

Don't think for a moment you will not be held accountable for your decisions. Do your job and save our children.

Your duty at this moment is to pass

HB900

Respectfully

Bea Cannon

1302 Country Place Dr

Houston TX 77079

(337) 781-2333

Bea Cannon

Houston, TX

And He made from one man every nation of mankind to live on the face of the earth, having determined their appointed times and the boundaries of their lands and territories.

Acts 17:26 AMP

Joseph Hurt

Self

Brookshire, TX

I strongly support this bill.

Holly Clapp
Self
Corpus Christi, TX

Please remove all sexual explicit materials from all children's schools!

Betsy Ruffin
self - retired educator
Cleburne, TX

As a retired educator, including as a school librarian, I have experience in selecting books that are well written, educationally appropriate, and age appropriate. It is this last item that draws me to comment on HB 900. Particularly in elementary school, where most of my experience was, books with sexual themes- whatever the supposed reading level, are not age appropriate. Students at that age are not emotionally or mentally equipped to handle such material. While at middle school and high school ages - which I have also worked with - a bit more leeway may be given, they are still not at maturity to handle very graphic or explicit items.

Stacy Hofstadter
Self
Frisco, TX

Remove toxic and erotic material from our schools.

Mark Russell
Self
Sherman, TX

One of the most important tasks of the peoples government is to assure the safety and moral integrity of our children and grand children. This task is inextricably an extension of the best values handed down to a conscientious citizenry and shepherded by the most noble forces within civil government. Texas must rise to this challenge in our time of increasing threats leveled at our good and society. Please support HB 900 with all of your heart and all of your might.

Laura Hammer
Self
Spring, TX

Please support this bill.

Anna Marie Hinojos
Self Project Manager
Houston, TX

I strongly support HB 900 because it prohibits harmful sexually explicit material in public schools.

Brian Roberts
Self
Howe, TX

I fully support HB900. Kid's should not be exposed to porn in school libraries.

Deborah Wallis
Self
Richardson, TX

I support HB 900.

Lorraine Rice

Self

Spring, TX

Somehow books that are not appropriate are being shelved in our school libraries. This needs to change !

Tiffany Parrott

Myself

Montgomery, TX

Please protect our children from damage through sexually explicit books and material. It is child abuse.

TOM COBB

self

Colleyville, TX

I strongly support HB 900 which seeks to remove HARMFUL sexually explicit materials from our public schools. We need to protect the innocence of our children!

Ally Raskin

Self

Dallas, TX

We should not have to worry that there is pornography in our schools sitting on our library shelves.

Lauren Christopherson

Self

Montgomery, TX

I support this bill for the protection of children in our public school system.

Audrey Werner

The Matthew XVIII Group

McKinney, TX

For the safety of our children please support this bill!!!!

Cyrena Nolan, Ms

Taxpayer

Dallas, TX

I fully support HB900. Sexually explicit pornographic material has no place in our Education System .

Nick (Paige) Hendrick
Self, Software Engineer
Austin, TX

Good afternoon,

As a mother in Texas, I am deeply concerned about the impact that this bill will have on children in our state. It is heartbreaking to think about children who will be impacted by this legislation, particularly those who are LGBT or have LGBT family members. They will grow up in a world where their identities and families are not valued or respected, and that is not the Texas that I know and love.

Growing up in east Texas as a queer person, I knew firsthand the challenges and discrimination that we face every day. It's not easy to be who you are when society tells you that you don't belong. But as a mother, I am even more concerned about the experiences that my children and others like them will have in this state. I want them to grow up in a world where they are accepted and loved for who they are, regardless of their gender identity or sexual orientation.

This bill will only serve to further marginalize and stigmatize transgender individuals and their families. It sends a message to our children that they are not worthy of the same rights and protections as everyone else. And it tells the world that Texas is not a welcoming place for people like my family and I.

As a parent, I know how important it is for our children to see themselves represented in the world around them. They need to know that they are not alone and that their experiences and identities matter. This bill would deny them that representation and further isolate them from their peers.

We cannot allow this bill to become law. We are your neighbors, your colleagues, your friends, and your family. We deserve to be treated with dignity and respect, to have our stories told and to be given the same opportunities as anyone else. Please do not turn your back on us. Thank you.

Edward Sample, Mr.
My family
Corpus Christi, TX

I am respectfully asking that this bill be passed. Our children's minds should not be poisoned by much of the things they are being taught in school.

It is imperative that you our representatives do the right thing and pass this bill, HB 900.
Thanks
Ed Sample

Terrie Crosby
Self HR
Pottsboro, TX

I am disappointed in the books they are allowing in our book fairs

Monica Brown
Self self employed
Granbury, TX

Please stop the madness. We need quality educational materials. I am for HB900

Monica Brown
Self self employed
Granbury, TX

Please stop the madness. We need quality educational materials. I am for HB900

Angela Fonville

Self

Blue Ridge, TX

Only child context should be allowed

No sexual stuff.

Emily Hersh

Self

Austin, TX

I am a parent of 2 children who attend Texas public schools. I support Texas school librarians who are highly trained professional educators that select books based on local policies, approved by our school board. I trust school librarians, not out-of-state vendors, to determine if content in books is appropriate. And parents, not the state, are responsible for determining what their children read.

Susan Susan Pollard

Self psychologist

Porter, TX

Please don't support this bill. I trust our librarians and educators to make decisions about what is appropriate. I don't believe it is reasonable to take the choice away from them or from the public. we should have access to books, allowing individuals, and families to make their own decisions about what's appropriate for them or their children to read. I am not in favor of allowing others to make those choices.

Sam Pyle

Self

Spring, TX

Thank you!

Lori Gallagher, Mrs.

Self/Realtor

GEORGETOWN, TX

No porn or sexual material belongs in our schools.

Tracy Falconer

self

Sherman, TX

I am FOR HB 900.

Torrie VanOs

Self- Analyst

Stonewall, TX

I strongly support HB 900 because it prohibits harmful, sexually explicit materials in public schools. I have personally read the pervasively vulgar books that are made available to children in Texas school districts and I encourage you to do the same. Children should be protected from the subject matter in these books. This is not about book banning, it is about book boundaries.

Stefanie Garner

self, self-employed

Sherman, TX

I am FOR the passage of this bill. Please protect Texas children from pornography.

Jennifer Lundy
Personal
Flower mound, TX
Support

Calvin Tillman
Self
Valley View, TX
Support, please report favorably to the Calendars Committee.

Roxanne Stage
Self
Cleveland, TX
I urge you to support HB900

Jeralee Smith
Self as retired teacher
Bonham, TX

Child development research of the last several decades should be a reality considered when deciding when sexually explicit material will not be applies when damaging to any areas of human development. Early exposure to sexually explicit material harms or aborts normal development. Children are not sexual from birth and their innocence should be protected to allow for normal development. This is not an issue of freedom of speech when child development is ignored.

Rhonda Schneider
Llano county library advisory board
Llano, TX

I support hb900
Protect our children !

Rita Estes
Self
Amarillo, TX

The issuing of pornographic material books placed in the schools is unacceptable! This issuance needs to be reversed asap. The healthy development of our Childrens minds is at stake. Would like to know how this was done without public knowledge. I implore you to reverse this decision and make it right!

Bridget Clapp
self
Corpus Christi, TX

I would like sexually explicit books to be excluded from public school libraries.

Anne Stone
DFW Deplorables Dallas
Dallas, TX

Pornography does not belong in our children's schools. It has infiltrated every level of our schools in DISD. We have repeatedly brought examples to the school board and they have done nothing. Children can check out virtually without parents ever seeing what they are reading. Please pass this legislation. We need to protect our children. They are too young in the K-12 ages to discern for themselves.

Tammy Owens
Self Nurse and Youth ministry
Paradise, TX

I have personal experience in working with youth that are struggling with pornography addictions. These children are in middle school. They are not educated of the affects of pornography until they are in high risk sexual activities and struggling emotionally and spiritually. Time and time again, we have heard that porn is very easily accesses. It's unfortunate that we don't ban pornography sites on the internet, but handing them explicit and sexually detailed materials in their library and classroom reading materials is unconscionable. Texas is behind the curve on leading the nation in protecting our children from the obvious deleterious effects of pornography. Please pass HB 900 and let us get to work on protecting our children in the public schools.

Mary Powell, Rev.
self
Georgetown, TX

As a 30 year teacher/librarian and public librarian my selection criteria has always been to NOT PURCHASE books or media that have only prurient value, but to purchase the highest quality of writing in line with the values of our nation, state, and communities. Libraries have more limited funds for purchase in the first place these days, so only the best books must be purchased. The books being foisted on our high school and elementary students serve the purpose of grooming them to explore sexual behaviors that would not occur to them otherwise and are not even allowed to be read aloud over our radio waves and television programs. It is time to put sexuality of all sorts back into the private, sacred place for which God designed it. Parents are the only ones who need to be answering the questions children ask based because of our poor programming on tv and the internet, so that a higher level of understanding of how human beings are made can prevail. As a pastor of 20 years, I advocate for this kind of censorship for which there should have never been a need in the first place in the past.

Rachel Horton
Self/ Republican Party of Texas SREC, SD 30
Weatherford, TX

Chairman Buckley and Members,
Thank you for your expedient work and action to bring HB900 (The READER Act) to the committee! You will doubtless hear from many on this subject. Thank you for taking the time to hear everyone. Two quick highlights that I want to make with regards to HB900.

1) Our public schools should be places for children to learn safely - classrooms and school libraries are designed and targeted to minors - children. They cannot vote, they cannot buy firearms, they cannot drink, and they cannot smoke. Imagine the chaos if Marlborough decided to send free "practice cigarettes" to your 9 year olds' health or science class. Adults must say "no" to certain concepts, ideas and practices that are fundamentally unhealthy for children.

2) Currently, Texas only has guidelines related to library collection policies, and our Texas schools are filled with filthy books. HB 900 would place the burden on Vendors to label sexually explicit materials and issue a recall of sexually explicit books sold to Texas schools by September 2023.

There is a stiff penalty to vendors who do not comply, as they will no longer be able to do business with any Texas school districts. This enforcement mechanism has proven to be very successful in other industries; it also reduces the fiscal impact on the state.

The Republican Party of Texas strongly supports HB 900 and I only regret that it's necessary to spell out this protection in law. Thank you for your time to and support on this matter - would urge expedient passage to ensure Vendors and Libraries have time to clean up their shelves appropriately before the next school term begins. Thank you!

Michele Allen, Tracger
Self
Midland, TX

Please! We need this!!!!

Shari Garrison
Self Property Preservation
Buffalo Gap, TX
I support HB 900

Sherri Sheffield
Myself
Austin, TX

I support HB900. We must hold vendors responsible for the books they are selling to schools.

CORINNA L RITTGERS, MRS
SELF / Self employed small business auto repair shop
CORPUS CHRISTI, TX

On behalf of my grandchildren, nieces and nephews and ALL SCHOOL-AGED children I declare that I do not condone any sexually explicit literature of any kind, including illustrated only. PROHIBIT AND REMOVE SUCH THINGS. This is a total disgrace and is taking away the beautiful innocence of childhood.

Kristie Bluhm
Clearfork Academy
ARLINGTON, TX

No explicit books in school for children.

Jacqueline Flesher
Highland Park Elementary School PTA, Kealing Middle School PTA
Austin, TX

Please support our school librarians who have advanced degrees to do their jobs in procuring content relevant to their campuses. Our family does not support regulating our school educators.

Rebecca Clark
Self
Richmond, TX

This bill is long overdue. I have battled with the vulgar content in all 3 school districts in my county and feel that clear and concise definitions and parameters, such as are contained in this bill, are what is needed to remove and/or cull the flow of harmful (and completely inappropriate at minimum) material into our schools. If we truly want to be able to call our schools "safe", it must include the removal of content that is PROVEN by years and years of research, as detrimental to our kids. Please pass this bill as soon as possible.

Sincerely,
Rebecca Clark

Laura Fincher
Self
Howe, TX

As parent I'm very disturb and saddened by the books that our children have easy access to. In and school or public setting with should be able to provide safe and secure place for children look at books that are not trying to sexualize our kids. A parent we have the right to protect our children and would like the support in removing these kind of books in our schools and public libraries.

Scott Nelson
Self, retired
Spring, TX

I fully support this Keep Insidious Smut out of Schools (KISS) bill - 100%!

Mark Brugge
Citizen
Fairview, TX

No pornography or sexually explicit material should be in any Texas school district library.

Deborah Leiber
self
THE WOODLANDS, TX

I am a Texas resident. All three of my children attended and graduated from Texas public schools, and my grandchildren will soon be attending Texas public schools. I support Texas school librarians who are highly trained professional educators that select books based on local policies, approved by our school board. I trust school librarians, not out-of-state vendors, to determine if content in books is appropriate. And parents, not the state, are responsible for determining what their children read.

It is imperative to keep the politics out of the library, and stop micromanaging libraries unnecessarily. This proposed law distracts from some REAL issues, such as raising the basic allotment; increasing compensation for teachers and staff; improving school safety; and ensuring students and teachers have mental health supports.

The TSLC and SBOE ALREADY developed library standards in 2018. These standards say: "Texas school libraries promote, develop, and facilitate age-appropriate access to all expressions of knowledge, opinion, and intellectual activity." Librarians are trained to evaluate suitability, and parents should make the final determination of what is suitable for their child. Parents ALREADY have the option to review the books their student checks out from the library and to opt out if they wish.

Also, requiring book vendors to RATE books and submit a list of books with "sexually relevant or explicit content" sold to a school district to the Texas Education Agency is vague and could be used to limit access to books relating to LGTBQI content or other content that a small group of extremists may find offensive, but is not offensive to many other families. All parents have the right to allow their children freedom to read!

I respectfully request that you please do not support HB 900.

Sincerely,
Deborah Leiber

Gayla Hawkins, Grayson County Treasurer
Myself
Sherman, TX

I am in favor of HB 900

Lauren Bohart
self
Dallas, TX

We need to get porn out of the schools and public libraries. This has nothing to do with education and is completely unnecessary for our children and their learning.

John LaMarr, Mr.

self retired

Plano, TX

Please vote FOR HB900.

Megan Anderson

Fannin pregnancy care center

Ivanhoe, TX

Stop the sexualization of our children. Get all pornography out of schools now!

Rebecca Meals, Mrs.

Grayson County Conservatives, and self

Whitesboro, TX

My name is Rebecca Meals, and I'm testifying FOR HB 900, representing myself and Grayson County Conservatives. We firmly believe that it is harmful for children to have access to sexually explicit materials. It is important to protect our children from harmful materials, and we have these statutes already in our code. One major problem is the exemptions included, which this bills should address at least in part. Any exemption for educational purpose or because a book has literary value should be struck from code. If it is harmful to give a child sexually explicit material as a layperson in public, then it shouldn't be considered not harmful if the same material comes from a school library or librarian. These materials are available for purchase in the free market, and parents who wish for their children to have access to them are free to provide them as they see fit. However, to place all other children at risk by having these available in schools is extremely inappropriate. Requiring a vetting process so that these books don't get into schools in the first place is another important step, as well as disallowing vendors who continue to push these books on the the schools from being allowed to continue providing their services. I would also suggest that the American Library Association is no friend to the schools, as they have an agenda in place to allow for these materials to be provided to children under their Library Bill of Rights. They oppose any attempts to limit any and all material by age, and to provide any ratings that would assist parents in knowing which books contain sexually explicit material.

My main concern with this bill is to ensure it is most effective by making sure that all places in code that provide an obscenity exemption are struck from code, as stated above. I see that Penal Code 43.21, 43.24, and 43.25 are referenced in HB 900. I am aware of Sen. Hall's bill SB 828 that would strike the exemption from 43.24, but I am not aware of other legislation that would address these other parts of code. It is my hope that a committee substitute could address all of these exemptions in one bill. If this bill passes but the others don't, I'm concerned that schools will still be able to use those exemptions as a loophole to keep providing sexually explicit materials to minors.

Again, we strongly urge you to support HB 900, and please also take into consideration our concerns about the obscenity exemptions. Thank you.

Janet Womack

Self

Valley View, TX

I support this bill!!

Victoria Martel, Mrs

Self

Nome, TX

Protect our children!!

Lana Allred

Self

Leonard, TX

I support this bill

Dee Holley

Self

Dallas, TX

Our kids are precious. We can't lose them over improper and pornographic books "not" being regulated in our libraries. We are Texas and we set the standard.

Virginia Moore, Mrs

Self

Bonham, TX

Please support this bill to protect our children.

Debbie Lindstrom

Self/ business owner

MCKINNEY, TX

I have seen and read some of the books in the public schools and as a tax payer, I'm appalled that these books are allowed in our schools.

I support HB 900.

Kim Tomlinson

Self/at home mom

Spring, TX

Filthy books should never been in our public schools

CARROL BROWN

Self

BONHAM, TX

I'm signing this to make sure our children have the appropriate material to read in school

Skyla Gilbert

Self

Midland, TX

I don't think there should be any sexually explicit books on any school libraries! I think it's sad and disgusting that that type of literature is being pushed on kids of all ages.

Teresa Bussell, Dr.

Self

Powderly, TX

I support HB 900. I just received a reply from my local school district to my book challenge to remove "A Court of Silver Flames" from the district as it is pervasively vulgar, obscene content and has no education significance to k-12 education. The district removed the book following a "weed" process which does not identify the book as inappropriate, and also gives the district the freedom to replace the book again or purchase other books with similar content. I believe HB 900 will put more accountability throughout the process to review and inspect books and materials available to students.

Charles Huey

Self

Llano, TX

I support and want this passed.

Dominique Egger

self, doctoral candidate in school psychology at the University of Texas at Austin

Austin, TX

Regulations by school districts and parents on an individual basis already exists and should not be limited further. Limiting this to arbitrary state determined policies limits freedom speech, especially because there are no specific parameters by which third-party raters will determine the appropriateness of reading materials beyond "sexually explicit content." This may lead to the unjust censoring of publishers and authors whose material speaks to a variety of important topics teenagers deal with directly or have exposure to peripherally. As a teen in the early 2000s I read "Candy" by Kevin Brooks which centered the story of a teenage prostitute and her friendship with another teenage boy. This book rather than pushing me into a life of crime and "sexual promiscuity," helped me to understand how a child might end up getting involved in sex work, what privileges I was afforded that others are not, and how even the most hopeless stories have glimmers of hope. It was a fictional recount of a very real problem within our country and it gave me an avenue to understand that the bubble I existed in didn't exist for everyone. It motivated me to help those in need and to work to change the systems in place that can push young children down paths that end in violence. It at no point encouraged me to engage in inappropriate behavior or made me more likely to "go down the wrong path." In fact, it discouraged use of illicit substances and other delinquent behavior which were tied to many of the problems the main characters in the story faced. It was available in my school library and sparked many intelligent and empowering conversations with the other teens around me about the types of changes we would like to see. I am currently studying to be a licensed child psychologist at the doctoral level and much of my motivation and desire to work with the populations I serve now was thanks to the books of my childhood that highlighted rather than masked the realities of the world we live in.

SA Cranfill

Cooke County Conservatives

Tioga, TX

There should be no controversy nor hesitation nor bureaucratic complication in totality removing, immediately, every book or printed material containing anything inappropriate for all students 19 and under. Smut of any flavor is not edifying for anyone, much less youth. If you can't readily identify smut, please resign your position to someone else. Common sense knows it when it sees it. Disgusting that anyone has to see it in the process of getting rid of it. Get the parents involved so they are fully aware of what has poisoned our schools.

Kimberly Trantham

Self

Denison, TX

Explicit books should never be in schools.

Sadie Thomas

Self

Pottsboro, TX

Please keep schools from allowing children access to inappropriate materials.

Maria Nicholas

Eagle Forum

Farmers Branch TX, TX

Please support HB 900

Brandy Mullane

Self

Nunya, TX

I do NOT want porn in my kids books. I support hb 900

Ellen Leyrer, N/A

N/A

Plano, TX

Support this bill for parents and students. Thank you!

Jo Anne Mims

Self

Llano, TX

Save our children from pornography

Mary Moore

Self - Christian Life Coach

Llano, TX

I support HB 900 for all Texas CHILDREN.

Jeff McCarty, Mr.

Self

Aledo, TX

I am in full support if this Bill to protect children from harmful, sexually explicit material in public schools.

April Allen

Self

Austin, TX

Please vote no!

Carolnr Allen, Mrs.

Self; retired

Dallas, TX

Children and young people should not be subjected to these materials, which are exposing them to lewd practices of which many adults were unaware until these books were discovered to be in school libraries. Children are intended to be innocent; one can see the confusion and rejection of these materials when first exposed to them in their classrooms. Intentionally exposing them to these materials can only be viewed as grooming for early sexual awareness, years before they are psychologically and emotionally ready for it. Exposure to these materials damages our children! Your support of HB900 is appreciated and necessary to prevent further injury to the youngest in our republic.

Sandra Lawson

Self Retired

Van Alstyne, TX

Please support this legislation to protect kids

Kari Lavelle

N/a

Austin, TX

There are already current policies in place in public and school libraries. Let's let the professionals (librarians!) continue to choose books that serve all children.

John Bishop, Mr.

self

Houston, TX

I strongly support HB 900 because it prohibits harmful, sexually explicit materials in public schools. This type of material does nothing to develop the academic abilities of students.

Gary Moore

Self - business owner

Llano, TX

I support HB 900 for all children of TEXAS.

Nancy Weir, Ms

GCRW

Collinsville, TX

NO! CRT BOOKS IN OUR SCHOOLS

Lori Traeger

Self

Weatherford, TX

I believe we must eliminate all pornographic materials in our public schools. I attended the Parker County Conservative meeting in February of this year and was able to view several books that were located in a local school library. I was appalled and sickened that our young people had access to these books. Once you see these pictures, you never forget the visual. Please do the right thing, regardless of consequences to you or your career. Our young people and our communities are counting on you.

Lori Traeger

Kailey Moore

Self, homemaker

Magnolia, TX

I support regulations on books in our school libraries. Protect our children.

Cathie Broten

Self

Midland, TX

No pornography in the schools!!!! Keep our kids safe!!

Thomas Anglemyer

Big Country Conservative Coalition

Abilene, TX

I fervently support HB 900

David Tomlinson
Self. Landman
Spring, TX

I support this Bill

Sara Nistetter
Self - homemaker
Spring, TX

Support - please take away books with sexually content.

Robert Mims
Self
Llano, TX

For!!!

Brandie Reves
Self
Hawley, TX

FOR!

Laurie Sherrod
Children
Horseshoe Bay, TX

We need to protect our students from pornography in the schools. Please help keep our kids safe.
Respectfully, Laurie Sherrod

Lisa Flores
self
Austin, TX

I oppose this bill. It is not a valuable use of taxpayer money.

Sharin Terry
myself
Savoy, TX

Please remove textbooks and library books with pornographic pictures from Texas schools.

Ryan Goodwin
Self
Abilene, TX

I support HB900.

Charity Jones
Self/homemaker
Abilene, TX

I support HB900.

Jessica Latimer
Self
San Antonio, TX

The librarians of our state schools have more training for what is appropriate for school libraries than vendors who want to sell their products.
Please think about this and vote no to Bill 900

James Stoltz
Self
Weatherford, TX
For

Joanie Castleman
Self. Retired teacher
Llano, TX
I support HB 900.

Bonnie Strickland
self/retired administrator
Vernon, TX

As a Texas Resident and registered Voter, I want to show that I do not support HB 900.
My confidence remains with our local, trusted Librarians and Educators, on a Community by Community basis, continuing to rely on the systems and rating already in place, and the parents who are and should be, the ultimate decider in this matter. I do not support State Legislator's interference.
Thank you.

Alisan Hames
Self
Spring, TX
No illicit material in schools please.

Walter West II, SFC
Oil & Gas Workers of America, TFL, self & family
Splendora, TX
Teach kids Academics not Social Perversions...

Karen Buck, Rev.
self, clergy
BURTON, TX

I support Texas school librarians who are highly trained professional educators that select books based on local policies, approved by our school board. I trust school librarians, not out-of-state vendors, to determine if content in books is appropriate. And parents, not the state, are responsible for determining what their children read.

Preet Sanders

Self-

Arlington, TX

Thank you, Representative Patterson for this House Bill 900. I wholeheartedly endorse and uphold this bill to stop public school libraries from sexualizing our children. Enough is enough. I can't believe we are having to state the obvious and define what obscenity is. We are contending with the same issue here in the City of Arlington public libraries. Please publish a bill that has the same language for the public libraries as well! Texas Parents are outraged at this nonsense and want it stopped, permanently. Let the deviants be prosecuted accordingly.

Margaret Jenkins

Self

Arlington, TX

I strongly support HB 900 because it prohibits harmful, sexually explicit materials in public schools.

Cheryl Johnson

SelfHB900

Odessa, TX

I support this bill.

Robert Strain

Salt and Light Ministries

Llano, TX

As a childhood rape victim of an aggressive pedophile and homosexual, I strongly support this bill and suggest that any moral decent human being do as well.

Martha Hoot

Self

Llano, TX

I support the fight to remove pornographic materials from the hands of children in our public library

Richard Sanders, Dr

Self. Business owner. Vetern

Abilene, TX

I support this bill. We must have safe libraries. Stop the craziness, protect our kids! I have personally seen these books and spoken against them to our city council. We need this bill

Susan Talley, Mrs

SELF Retired Educator, Odessa Tx;TRTA

Ofessa, TX

I support HB 900

Erica Batten

Self

Abilene, TX

I support this bill to protect our children

Donald Smither
Texas Freedmen Affairs PAC
Houston, TX

In favor of HB900 because it keeps books regarding pedophilia off of the bookshelves & keeps very impressionable students from learning about sexuality & gender preference at a very young age where they're still learning the basics regarding reading & mathematics. It makes no sense for children to be taught anything pertaining to sex when they can't even complete a sentence nor add, subtract & multiply

Jerry Underwood
Michelle allen
Midland, TX

I support this bill

Kelly Lofton
Parent
Marble Falls, TX

Please protect our children ????

Celeste Grabowski, Mrs.
Self- former teacher and Mother
Spring, TX

I fully support this bill as do so many other teachers and former teachers. Protect our children.

Jennifer Fleck
Self
Spicewood, TX

I strongly support HB 900 to regulate and remove sexually explicit and transgender promoting books from K-12 libraries. Please include an enforcement provision, so that laws are more than suggestions to the Public education system.

Sherronna Bishop
America's Mom
Carthage, TX

As a parent I was shocked to learn schools COULD show my child explicit content under the guise of "education". I support hb900 because the innocence of children is paramount to a healthy functioning adult. Children should be protected from explicit content by the institutions we trust to educate them for 8 hours a day! I do not want any parent worrying that today they will read "gender queer" and see strap ons and oral sex being done and called "education". Opening up doors of confusion and sexuality for minors is immoral and diminishing to society.

Kenneth Cline, Llano County Coordinator. Workforce Network
Aelf
Llano, TX

I am favor of this bill

Larry Calp
Self
Houston, TX

The most precious thing about our youth is their innocence. We must do all that we can to protect this innocence by keeping our schools free of any sexually explicit material in their libraries. The schools are there to teach reading, writing, math, the true history of this great nation, science, English, etc. There should be no place in our schools for any sexually explicit material.

Michael Fisher
SELF
ABILENE, TX

We are in support of this house bill! Please pass this bill. Thanks!

Natasha Owens
Natasha owens music
Plano, TX

We have got to not allow adult topics and porns into our curriculum or library shelves

Spence Cates
Self - Retired Commercial Construction General Superintendent
Sweetwater, TX

I support HB900

Carie McNeil, Ms
Myself
Midland, TX

Books should be age appropriate. If that book was turned into a movie could my minor child be allowed entrance without a parent. If the answer is no then it shouldn't be utilized in the classroom and limited availability in the library. We must quit promoting sexuality, flurry, communistic,LGBTQ idealism in our classrooms. These should be left to a home and parent controlled environment.

Sandra McAdams
Retired Teachers
Paris, TX

I support this 100%!

Tammy Fogle, Mrs.
Private
Abilene, TX

I support passing HB 900

Sherry Simpson
Self
Llano, TX

I support HB900
Thank you,
Sherry Simpson

Richard Womack

Cooke County GOP - Chair, Cooke County Conservatives - Board Member, Valley View Chamber of Commerce - Member.
Valley View, TX

I support this bill as it is extremely important to remove sexually explicit materials from our public schools. I have been working in one ISD for a year and due to 'loop hole' they have refused to remove them.

Jennifer Cochran, Mrs.

Bethel Assembly
Anson, TX

I I absolutely support the regulation of books sold two or included in public school libraries. We must protect our children from explicit content, including alternate lifestyles and sexually suggestive content.

Janea Copaus, Mrs.

Self
Tuscola, TX

I support HB900

Teena Hocker

Self
Sherman, TX

I support this bill to regulate what books are provided for our children.

Chelsa Istre

Self
Abilene, TX

I'm for HB 900

Benton McAdams

Retired Teachers
Paris, TX

I support this!!!

Elise Groenemann

Self- business owner
Spring, TX

Keep schools safe, including the minds of our children and youth

Barbara Browning

NA
Denton, TX

I support HB900

Judith Williams

Self
Abilene, TX

I support HB900. Let's keep our children, children!!!

Keith Odenweller

Self

Spring, TX

For

Roger Hall

self

Ingram, TX

As a parent, I want to be notified of any potentially explicit materials my children would be exposed to BEFORE they are. Public school libraries freely acquiring or purchasing these harmful or sexually explicit materials is unacceptable when they take no action from protecting those they are charged with. Please support this bill and get out to the House floor for all members to vote on.

Stephanie Bryant

Self

Stephenville, TX

I support HB900

Denise Denman

NA

Odessa, TX

I support HB 900

Alison Westermann

Self, nonprofit fundraising

El Paso, TX

I am against HB 900 as it is a clear violation of students' (and families) First Amendment rights. Federal courts have already ruled this type of legislative ban attempt unconstitutional and I am sure this will be the case with HB 900. Stop wasting our time and tax money on hateful and discriminatory legislation to further the TX Republicans' discriminatory agenda against already vulnerable and marginalized groups.

HB 900 says that "The Texas State Library and Archives Commission, in consultation with the State Board of Education, shall adopt VOLUNTARY standards for school library services, other than collection development and that a school district shall CONSIDER [the standards] in developing, implementing, or expanding library services.

The standards adopted under the bill must include a policy that prohibits the acquisition of material rated as sexually explicit material, permits the exclusion from a school library of materials that are pervasively vulgar or educationally unsuitable and it does define the terms. The standards also require parental consent to access sexually relevant library materials.

Additionally it says that a book vendor may not sell a book to a school district or open-enrollment charter school before issuing appropriate ratings related to sexually relevant material and sexually explicit materials. Vendors may not sell a book containing sexually explicit materials to a school district or open-enrollment charter school.

It also requires that the vendor wanting to sell to schools develop and submit to the agency a list of each book containing sexually explicit relevant material; submit to the agency any books sold with sexually relevant material or sexually explicit material that were sold during the preceding year; and the agency shall post each list submitted on the agency's Internet website as soon as practicable.

If the vendor violates this section and if corrections have not been made in the required time frame the sales to the vendor could cease and all books violating this section will be returned under recall to the vendor.

My concerns are: First, the words, 'voluntary' and 'consider.' Second, are the Texas State Library and State Board of Education the people who should be developing these standards? (I think not) Third, Speaker of the House Dade Phelan likes this bill and his intentions are questionable thus far in the 88th Legislative Session.

Stick to the core issues of primary importance to all Texans: fully funding public schools, addressing gun violence with common-sense legislation, and increasing the quality of life by expanding access to healthcare, housing and food. This is what the elected officials in the TX Legislature were sent to Austin to do. The majority of Texans want these things.

Vivian Mccoy

Self

Howe, TX

Please list my support for HB900

Carla Birk

Self

Tomball, TX

I support HB 900. Too many books with age inappropriate content including sexually graphic, explicit, and violent are ending up in school libraries. This is especially concerning for elementary and middle schools. The books should include a rating similar to movies for transparency and to streamline the process of determining appropriateness. This can also give the opportunity for parental permission. As adults we must protect children from harmful materials and parents and taxpayers need the tools to assist.

Allison Thomas

self

Austin, TX

Please allow regulation of books sold to or included in public school libraries left to the local schools themselves. I do not want the State Board of Education or the Texas State Library telling local schools what they can and can't have in their school libraries. We don't need to be afraid of schools having books. We don't need to be afraid of books. Let us teach our children how to be good readers and thinkers, not to be afraid of ideas or view points that are different from their own or their parents'. Again, please leave decision making to the schools, keep it local.

Christian Cruz

Self

Austin, TX

As a constituent, I oppose this legislation.

James Boone

My family Director of North America

Abilene, TX

I'm in full support

Heather Voigt

Self- self employed

Ovalo, TX

I support HB900!!! Protect our GREATEST resource, OUR CHILDREN!

Bill Phipps

Big country conservatives

Abilene, TX

I support house bill HB900 we need to protect our children

Tom Moncrief

Moncrief Properties, LLC

Fort Worth, TX

Sexually explicit material has not always been illegal in schools? It was when I was in school in the 1960's. How can this not be illegal and not be considered 'contributing to the delinquency of a minor?' What has been going on with our state government?

Lori Whitmire

Self

Wink, TX

I am FOR HB 0900

Robert Wallace

Self- retired

Llano, TX

I am strongly in favor ! It could go farther. But it's a start.

Frank Eaton

Self

Odessa, TX

I support HB 900

Debra Wallace, Mrs

Self, caretaker of grandchild

Austin, TX

I strongly support HB900 because it prohibits harmful, sexually explicit materials in public schools

Carol Cone

Self

Spring, TX

Keep inappropriate books out of our school libraries.

Kristy Lewis

Self

Spring, TX

Please vote FOR HB900 and help protect our children!

Suzanne Moulton

Self - Small biz owner

Llano, TX

I support HB 900

Richard Kirchhof, Director Llano Tea Party, Llano, TX

Friends of Llano Library

Llano, TX

I am strongly for this bill. I am active in the friends of the Llano library and the Llano Tea Party. Please consider this bill for immediate approval. Thank you. Richard kirchhof

Michael Goetz, Jesus believer!!!

Self

Pontotoc, TX

Support this bill

Chrystina Power

self/retired military

Spring Branch, TX

“I strongly support HB 900 because it prohibits harmful, sexually explicit materials in public schools.”

Henry Istre, Mr

Self

Abilene, TX

I'm for this bill

Della Smith
Teachers
Midland, TX
Yes

Cynthia Sloan
Self
San Saba, TX
I support this bill

Angelique Moore
Abilene
Abilene, TX
I support SB 900

Leif Haug
Self
San saba, TX
Supporting it

Linda Manuel
Self
Spring, TX

I am not at all in favor of censorship. I am however in favor of reason and sense. Books belong in the hands of children and what is appropriate for one might not be appropriate for another. Taking parents out of parental decisions is wrong. Keep the books, adequately marked for content that could be of a sensitive nature in libraries where they belong.

Debra Leff
Self
Austin, TX

This is a tragedy in the making. I know how you feel, but step back and look at the children who will be negatively affected by this. Did you know in the early days of the Judeo-Christian heritage, there were children who were considered both gender? This is not a "choice" issue. This is a "right to life" issue. I am against this bill.

Leslie Thomas
Self
Blum, TX

I am FOR this bill any other that keeps vulgar and material that corrupt the morals of our children from them. Don't be a party to robbing their innocence.

Randal Hawkins
Republican precincts committee
San Saba, TX
I support this bill

Timothy Ruttan, Dr.

Self, Physician

Austin, TX

Our librarians are qualified to decide which books go in our libraries and there are already processes in place for parents to opt their children out of checking out books they deem offensive. Please say no to HB 900. Thank you. Librarians are the experts, often with masters degrees and years of experience, and engage with families and children.

Chris Donofrio

Self

The Woodlands, TX

I strongly oppose HB 900.

On a technical basis the bill's definitions are too broad. On its social merits the bill seeks to ban books that deal with transgender and other LGBTQ+ people. On its ethical and moral merits HB 900 shall impose a conservative, white European, Christian religious interpretation which violates the separation of religion established in both the US and Texas constitutions. In short HB 900 is a poorly written bill to introduce state-sponsored, Christian-based censorship of books as the law of the land.

I only have enough characters to look at HB 900's technical issues. Sec 33.021.a provides the definition of "sexually explicit." After listing material that constitute "sexually explicit," the text continues: "[sexually explicit material] that describes or portrays sexual conduct, as defined by Section 43.25, Penal Code, in a patently offensive way, as defined by Section 43.21, Penal Code." is banned.

This has very interesting implications that transcend the bill's religious intentions, and the use of a few people to define community values. Section 43.25 deals with sexual actions involving children under 18. It explicitly makes it a crime to have sexual intercourse with a minor. This section references 43.01 which reiterates intercourse and adds oral and anal sex. Unlike 43.25 there is no age limit.

Section 43.21 defines "obscene." 43.21.a.1.A "Obscene" means material or a performance that: the average person, complying contemporary community standards, would find that taken as a whole appeals to the prurient interest of sex." 43.21.a.1.D

"Obscene" means material or a performance that: taken as a whole lacks serious literary, artistic, political, and scientific value." Finally, 43.21.a.4: "Patently offensive" means so offensive on its face as to affront current community standards of decency." sets a high bar unmet by HB 900.

Section 43.23.b makes it a felony if a person does what is defined in 43.23.c. "A person commits an offense if, knowing its content and character, he: (1) promotes or possesses with intent to promote any obscene material or obscene device.

These referenced portions of the penal code have extremely significant impacts on HB 900's enforcement if enacted. First it broadens the scope of the bill beyond its intended targets, including all literary and religious material. Books such as the Bible (43.21.a.1.D) contain explicit accounts of incest, rape, pimping, and sex with/rape of children. All very far out of line with state-wide community standards.

State-wide, a large majority support gay rights, sexual and racial diversity, and previously banned books including major literary works. Only a very small minority of people here and across the nation want laws like these. Politicians amplify their voices and willingly work against the well being of all Texans.

BTW Sec 33.021.d.2.D fact check: Wrong per Supreme Court.

It's past time to put a stop to these attacks on us by extremists.

Chris Donofrio

Carol Beck

My family

Sherman, TX

Please support this bill to keep books out pf the libraries that are sexual in nature or indictriate our kids as to gender activism

Melia Lancaster

self

Abilene, TX

I am for hb900.

Mary Gagnon
Self - homemaker
Corpus Christi, TX

I strongly support HB 900 because it prohibits harmful, sexually explicit materials in public schools libraries.

James Williams
Self-disabled
Abilene, TX

I support HB900

Glenda Mckneely
Self/receptionist
Cherokee, TX

I support HB 900

Marie Nuhn, Mrs.
Self—Full-Time Grandma
Abilene, TX

Please support HB900. Please protect Texas children from sexually explicit material.

Sandra Montes
Self— business system analyst
Cedar Park, TX

I support this bill. Sexually explicit material or any form of graphic material relating to sex (Hetero- or homosexual) or ideologies related to gender do not belong in our schools period.

Christopher Hopper
Texas Family Project
Weatherford, TX

For far too long we have allowed pure filth to creep into public libraries across the Lone Star state. The woke agenda is softening the target of the Texas family but know this, the ultimate target are the children. As president of the Texas Family Project, we spend every waking moment of every day fighting on behalf of the innocent among us. We should protect our children from being exposed to the sexual trash littering our public library shelves. I'm asking the house to take a stand for the families of Texas and support Hb 900. Thank you Rep. Patterson for acting on behalf of those who are the ultimate target. I whole heartiest support HB 900.

Lisa Van Cleave, Dr.
Abilene
Tuscola, TX

I vote for.

Brenda Cable
Self - Rancher, Computer Consultant, Mother, Wife
Uvalde, TX

I strongly support this bill to protect our children and grandchildren!!

Dorothy Morse

Citizen

Gordon, TX

No pornographic books to children

Nathan Roberts

Self

Dallas, TX

I am fully supportive of this Bill. Children our the most precious and most vulnerable people we have a responsibility as parents, as administrators and as a community to protect them. There is no argument to make against that.

Cindy Hawkins

Self

San Saba, TX

I support HB900

Erin Dempsey

Self Attorney

Austin, TX

I am a woman, a parent and a Texan. I have grown up here and with each passing day, I am more and more horrified to live in this State. First of all, has a book ever killed a child in Texas? Absolutely not. Second, why are we regulating books, which expand minds and hearts, and not regulating guns, which kill people, including children, daily in the State of Texas and all across the nation for that matter. Please get your priorities straight for the sake of your constituents' lives. Since when has the Republican party become the party of big government? I can think of nothing else that says "Big and intrusive government" more than the desperate action to try and control the books that our children read. You are intruding in the right of parents to "parent" their children by immediately removing books from public libraries that many parents would want their children to read and to understand. This bill is cowardly and it shows how little you care about the majority of people in your state. Do parents have the right to keep their children from reading certain books? They absolutely do. But what one parent decides is wrong for his or her child may be what another parent chooses is the perfect thing for his or her child. You cannot ban parental rights out of existence. Parental rights go both ways, not just your way. Please understand that this bill goes against free speech and it will set a terrible and embarrassing precedent for other hapless state governments to follow. I wish I could understand your politics of fear and of polarization, but for the life of me I cannot. Power must be the only thing that matters to you and your cronies and I hope that you rethink this terrible bill and all that it represents. You kowtow to the will of a few and you are not brave enough to say enough is enough. When you were a child, what would your parents think of banned books? Don't you think they would want a say in what their child read rather than having the government step in and do it for them? Those were the days of the individual I suppose, when Republicans were actually for a smaller and less intrusive government. Now look at yourselves. You and your fellow Republicans have gotten so small and so backwards that you are dictating what our children can read and how parents raise their children. Shame on you. You are an embarrassment and you are trying to take the State of Texas down with you. This is such a sad and desperate state of affairs. Creating fear and polarization where there is none. Absolutely pathetic. Ban guns, not books. Such a ban would actually save lives rather than lessen them through the banning of books.

Lynn Sanders

Self, clinical psychologist

Abilene, TX

Support HB900!

Get rid of the smut and porn in our libraries

Protect the children!!!

Sandi Walker
Self, parent
Fort Worth, TX

As a mother to 6 children, I am in favor of HB900. We should fight to protect the innocence of the next generation. They are the future and worth it!

Larry Phillip, Retired Texas College Librarian
self- retired
Whitney, TX

I SUPPORT HB 900.

As a former college librarian, I have seen materials that are ordered based upon a librariy employee's Personal Agenda which is political or social rather than upon the needs of the patrons that the library serves.

I SUPPORT HB 900

Glen Aaron, Mr.
Self
Midland, TX

I support HB900.

Mary Pearson, Mrs
Self
Eules, TX

Books with sexually explicit photos and adult information should not be in school libraries. Sex education should be covered in health education classes.

Sherry Kay Istre, Mrs
Self
Anilene, TX

I support HB 900

A Padilla
self
El Paso, TX

I am against HB 900 as it is a clear violation of students' FIRST amendment rights to receive information and ideas. Federal courts have already ruled this type of legislative ban attempt unconstitutional and I am sure this will be that case with HB 900 if passed. Legislators know this and are purposefully wasting our taxpayer's time and money on hateful and discriminatory legislation to further their discriminatory agenda against already vulnerable and marginalized groups. It is disgusting that our government continues to try and push a theocratic agenda.

Carolyn Brasch
Self , retired Rn
Mckinney, TX

As a parent of children who attended Texas public schools and now a grandparent of students attending Texas public schools I would like to express my strong support for Texas public schools and teachers. I believe the librarians in these schools have the training necessary to select books for school libraries. I believe parents, not the government, should be responsible for deciding what their own children may read!

DDee Kearny

Self

Abilene, TX

I support HB900 and ask you to stand strong in support of it also.

Linda Huff

Self — retired

Abilene, TX

Vote for

Pilar McPeters

Self

Mansfield, TX

I strongly support HB900 because it prohibits harmful, sexually explicit materials in public schools

Christy Barnett

Self

Mason, TX

I support HB900.

Ada Jerman

Self

Austin, TX

This is unconstitutional and should be voted against

Bernice Mote

Self housewife

Llano, TX

I agree that there should be regulations of books sold to or included in public school libraries.

Maclyn Thompson

Self

Mason, TX

I support HB 900

Janet Franklin

Self

Llano, TX

Support HB 900

Albert McGehee

PEOPLE FOR BETTER EDUCATION

San Antonio, TX

I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB900 because it prohibits harmful, sexually explicit materials in public schools" is all that's needed.

Gerri Barrick, Mrs.

Self, Quality improvement consultant

Belton, TX

I strongly support HB 900 because it prohibits harmful, sexually explicit materials in public schools.”

Linda Kemp

Self

Abilene, TX

FOR

Dianna Nicholas

Republican

The Woodlands, TX

No pornography in schools

Karen Bennett

Individual in Llano County

Horseshoe Bay, TX

I support this bill. I am a mother of two grown children and now a grandmother of 3 grandchildren. I have personally researched the American Library Association, their newly elected President, reviewed Welcoming Schools agenda and the books that are being promoted along with the curriculum for preschoolers and children in elementary school. I am both shocked and appalled that we as a society think that what we are pushing on our on young children is acceptable. There is a scripture verse: Everything is permissible in this world, but everything is not beneficial.

I can vouch that the books I have reviewed and the agenda of the ALA is not beneficial for our most vulnerable: Our children. We have made decisions for age appropriate matters like piercings, tattoos, drinking, driving, etc for our children until they are mature enough. Why should gender, transgender, sex not have age appropriate boundaries as well! Just because something is not available in the school library or public library, does not mean there are not endless resources in this digital age to get your hands on a book. Especially if you are a parent that says everything is permissible for your child. We do not need adults with knowledge making these decisions. We need adults with wisdom...for the sake of our children! Thank you.

Katherine Hinckley, Mrs

Self

Art, TX

For regulation of books sold to schools and public libraries.

Beth Madden

Self - Office Manager

Fort Worth, TX

I strongly support HB 900 because it prohibits harmful, sexually explicit materials in public schools. We should be preparing our children for academic success.

Sharon Cospers, Mrs

Myself

Abilene, TX

I support HB900 bill

George Gurganus, Mr
Self
Abilene, TX

I support HB 900

Nancy Arthur
self; retired lawyer
Robert Lee, TX

I support this bill

Dyanne Spease, Mrs
Self
Clyde, TX

Protect our children

Sandy Osbourn
Self
Llano, TX

I support HB900.

Carol Arrington
None
Llano, TX

I wholeheartedly support protecting our children from pornography

Peble Churchman
Self
Mason, TX

II support HB 900

Dana Wright
Self
Llano, TX

I support HB 900.

Tracy Hughes
Self
Abilene, TX

Please protect our children and don't expose them to anything before they are old enough to make this decision on their own.
Thank you.

Johana Huff
Self investment advisor
Cherokee, TX

I am opposed to sexually explicit books in libraries available to young children. I believe they undermine families and purposely are grooming children sexually.

Kathryn Puckett

Self

Howe, TX

Let our children be worryfree, carefree young children.

Brandy Sanderson

Self office manager

Llano, TX

All library books should be G rated since it is a public space. I do not wish for my taxes to be used to fund any book that cannot be read out loud in public.

Megan Mills

Retired School librarian

Waxahachie, TX

I support Texas school librarians who are trained professional educators that select books based on local policies, approved by our school board. I trust school librarians, not out-of-state vendors, to determine if content in books is appropriate.

jonathan eisenberg, Dr

Self

Austin, TX

I am a pediatrician and an emergency medicine physician. I work and address mental health issues daily. Many of these children have significant issues with self perception. They think they are alone in guys world. Literature and escapism allow these children a place to see they are not individuals alone, combatting the stigmas they address daily. It shows they are part of the likely 10% of the population that identifies as LGTQ. This bill is not just short sighted—it will cause irreversible damage to a vulnerable portion of the state's population.

In addition to being a physician, I am a Jew. My family either escaped the nazis to Israel or suffered through WW2. The overarching themes of banning reading material has echoes of nazism and fascism. It scares me. It concerns me. What are the next after this? Sending kids to conversion camps, not letting them attend summer camp or school, punishing them or their caregivers?

This bill is so wrong. There are no perceived benefits-only hate.

Judy Uherek, Mrs.

Self/Retired

Mason, TX

Support this bill.

Jennifer Lopez

Self, self employed

Abilene, TX

For

KAREN BURNAM

SELF

TOMBALL, TX

I support this bill

Erin White
Self
Cherokee, TX
I support this bill

Gail Davalos
Self; retired
Horseshoe Bay, TX
I support HB900

Sharon Mayo
Self
Sherman, TX
I am for this all the way.

Sujit Iyer, Dr
US Acute Care Solutons / Dell Childrens Medical Center
Austin, TX

Restricting the knowledge, acceptance and scientific fact that there are different ethnicities, cultures or sexual orientations will not provide children the knowledge or perspective that these differences are biologically normal . The current rates of pediatric suicidal and severe mental health issues in this population that are crowding our hospitals in a population of vulnerable children who fundamentally don't feel included is dangerous. Address the crises happening in our hospitals every day and allow for more knowledge and discussion, not less. Walk into the children's hospital ER and see the impact of creating a culture where knowledge or acceptance of information of different perspectives of sexual orientation is limited .

Darla Avery
Self
Abilene, TX

I support this bill. Children are young and innocent and it needs to stay that way. Young minds are impressionable. I support this bill.

Charles Byrn, Mr
Myself
Abilene, TX

I would like for the committee to protect our children.

Bette McCutchen
Self/Retired
Abilene, TX

I feel that sex related books should not be allowed in children's section of the library!

Kathleen Berg, MD
Self, pediatric emergency medicine physician
Austin, TX

I am strongly opposed to this bill as a pediatric EM physician. It violates freedom of speech and is a form of cultural genocide against a particularly vulnerable postulation of young Texans.

Carrie Moore
Self
Corpus Christi, TX

I hope to help craft wording to enable the closure of several loopholes in this bill. Thank you for the beginnings of a great bill.

James Gingrich
Self
Abilene, TX

Support HB 900 and let's protect the children and the folks before we lose this great State!

Joanne Wagener
Self
Austin, TX

I strongly support and am in favor of passing HB900 because it prohibits harmful and sexually explicit material into the public schools.

Martha Gordon
Self/retired teacher
Whitney, TX

I am NOT for censorship. However, children should not be introduced to subjects they are too young to understand. Let children be children. There should be no form of social engineering available in elementary schools.

Vicki Bailey, Mrs.
Beltway life group
Abilene, TX

I support HB900

Liz Redding
Self
Abilene, TX

Please support HB900, I support HB900.

Keri Davis
Self
Cherokee, TX

I support HB900

Steven Ellis, Mr
Self - retired
Dallas, TX

I am in support of insuring that books made available via taxpayer funds in public school libraries are subject to the provisions of this bill.

Jane Bronstad
Self
Sherman, TX
FOR

Sabrina Martinez
Self
Milford, TX

Children should be allowed to grow up without adult content in their lives. Let our children grow intellectually before sexually

Julia Seidensticker
Self
Fredericksburg, TX
I support HB900!

Bruce Whitson, Mr
Self. Retired
DeKalb, TX

I strongly concer

Jessica Kincannon
Self
Abilene, TX
I support HB900

Sandra Johnson
Self hairstylist
Llano, TX

Protect our children

MARIANA GOLLAHER, Mrs.
Self
Denison, TX

Please remove all pornography from public school libraries.

Martha Rogers
none
Austin, TX

Say NO to HB 900. Our librarians are qualified to decide which books go in our libraries and there are already processes in place for parents to opt their children out of checking out books they deem offensive. Please say no to HB 900. Thank you.

William Austin
self / retired
Llano, TX

I support HB900.

Monica Zimmerman

Self

Doss, TX

Support to protect TX children from sexually explicit books in schools

Kathy Denman

Self

Odessa, TX

Please regulate books in schools

Jerry Land

Self

Llano, TX

I support this bill.

Andrew Barrett

Self, self employed

San Angelo, TX

I support HB 900. Protect our kids, don't sacrifice them for political correctness.

Cassandra Crowe

Self - Parent

Conroe, TX

Support

Bonnie Abadie

Self/Self-employed

Richardson, TX

It's a sad day when the books our kids are being exposed to have sexually explicit material in them and parents aren't even aware of this. One of my neighbors just happened to pick up a graphic novel her elementary daughter had just started reading and flipped through it to see what was in the book. Imagine her surprise when she found a nude image of one of the female characters in the book! What if she hadn't thumbed through the book?! How are parents supposed to know that this is what is in the school libraries? Movies have ratings so we can protect our kids. It's sad that in this day and age we need to have it for books, but here we are. I urge everyone to support HB900! Protect the innocent children!

Clarissa Berumen

Self

El Paso, TX

I am against HB 900 as it is a clear violation of students' FIRST amendment rights to receive information and ideas. Federal courts have already ruled this type of legislative ban attempt unconstitutional and I am sure this will be that case with HB 900 if passed. Legislators know this and are purposefully wasting our taxpayer's time and money on hateful and discriminatory legislation to further their discriminatory agenda against already vulnerable and marginalized groups of which my family are members.

Carolyn Hunter
Yellow rose republican women
CYPRESS, TX

Schools will not be able to provide sexually provocative material to our children.
Libraries should not have this material in our schools.

Anne Brownlee
Self retired
Cherokee, TX

I support this bill. No sexually explicit books should be in our schools!

Stephanie Willis
Self
Lawn, TX

Please vote FOR HB 900. Sexually explicit books do not belong in children's libraries.

Joe Livingston
Self
Arlington, TX

I strongly support HB 900 because it prohibits harmful, sexually explicit materials in public schools. I am for Improved education; Schools should be teaching basics like reading, writing, arithmetic, science, and history. Our children should be taught history, not hate. Social and sexual issues should be taught at home. Parents should have a say in what the students are taught instead of bureaucrats.

Bess Loveless
Self
Bynum, TX

Please let our children be children and stop the emotional abuse of pornography in schools, libraries and public spaces.

Jackie Cherico
BridgeLives
Llano, TX
I Support

Justin Swink
Self
Watauga, TX

I support Texas school librarians who are highly trained professional educators that select books based on local policies, approved by our school board. I trust school librarians, not out-of-state vendors, to determine if content in books is appropriate. And parents, not the state, are responsible for determining what their children read.

Linda McAfee
Self
DeSoto, TX

PASS THE BILL!

Krystal Ashworth
ARW
abilene, TX

I support HB 900

Ann Phipps, Mrs
Self
Abilene, TX

I support HB 900. These books do not need to be in the children's section. I'm not for censoring any books, but they need to be in age appropriate places. Not in young children's reach!! Who in the world thinks this is ok?

Gilbert Sánchez, Mr.
Self
San Antonio, TX

Sexually explicit material should be prohibited from making it to school libraries. If it does get to schools, then severe penalties should be imposed on the school district violating such.

Donna Stallone
Self
Tomball, TX

I support this bill! Public education should not ever overstep their boundaries. Parents should absolutely know what their children are exposed too! Rating books and asking parents for consent is absolutely necessary!

Janie Perritt
Myself
Boerne, TX

I support HB 900. I do this as a
Texas citizen,.

Nanette Hilgendorf
Self
Canyon Lake, TX

I strongly support HB 900 because it prohibits harmful, sexually explicit materials in public schools.

Connie Salazar
Diana
Anson, TX

I support hb9

Shellie Venglar
Self
Edna, TX

I support HB 900

Pauline Ramsey

Self

Spring, TX

Please support HB 900. Thank you

Franklin Strong, Dr.

Self

Austin, TX

I'm writing as a teacher and a parent to oppose HB 900. As a teacher, I know that this bill would put Texas students at a competitive disadvantage by severely English education and literacy efforts in the state. As a parent, I know that it would limit my daughter's ability to experience the wonders of freely exploring a school library stocked with the greatest works of literature.

I teach AP English to high school seniors, and the wording of HB 900 could lead many of the books that regularly appear on the AP Literature exam to be classified as either "sexually explicit," and thus forbidden from classrooms and school libraries, or "sexually relevant," and thus require parental permission to access. Books like *The Bluest Eye*, *Catch-22*, *Dominicana*, *If Beale Street Could Talk*, *Love Medicine*, *The House of the Spirits*, *Things Fall Apart*, *Nineteen Eighty-Four*, and *The Kite Runner*—all of which appeared on last year's AP Literature exam—would likely fall into one of those two classifications.

These are not bad or dirty books. To the contrary, they are books of the highest quality, books that wrestle with moral issues we have expected our high-school-aged students to consider for generations.

Again, I'm writing as a parent as well as a teacher. My daughter is 12 now, and I look forward to talking with her about the great literature she discovers in high school, the way my parents and I used to discuss the books I brought home from my school library. For that to happen, she needs access to a wide-open library, vetted with care by professional librarians.

Nobody wants pornography or harmful material in our libraries, but as written this law is a blunt instrument that risks depriving our students of genuine learning opportunities they need to prepare them for college and the world outside of the classroom.

Elana Fama, Mrs

self

McKinney, TX

As a parent and former teacher, I am strongly for this bill and against introducing young, innocent children to such.

They deserve to be protected and allowed to be children.

I ask that you support this bill.

Thanks

Carla Danford, Mrs

Self (retired)

Fort Worth, TX

I support HB 900

Darla Howell, Controller

Self - Controller

Hockley, TX

We should not be allowing sexually explicit literature or sexual instruction in our children's education.

Lesa Whitehead Wireman

Mason Co Republican Party

Mason, TX

I support HB 900

Patricia Eaton

Parents

Odessa, TX

The schools have no place putting sexually explicit material in the classroom or library. Values and morals are the province of parents - not the state.

Everything I have seen and read points to inappropriate content based on age and stage of development. As a registered nurse, I recognize age inappropriate material. I have cringed at some of the books my middle school neighbor brings home. Let the parents do their job with beliefs and morals, and teach basic skills.

All across the state our math, English, and history achievement is embarrassing. I am a product of the public school system, and I am ashamed of what it has become. When I learned we were taught to think and reason, when my now grown children were in school they were mainly taught to memorize to pass a test. Now all I see happening is indoctrination to social norms that aren't the mainstream beliefs of the residents.

Lonnie Lassmann

self

San Antonio, TX

I strongly support HB 900 because it prohibits harmful, sexually explicit materials in public schools.

Charlotte Frenzel

Salty Souls

Edna, TX

I support HB900

Ellen Goodman

Self/Teacher

El Paso, TX

I am against HB 900 as it is a clear violation of students' FIRST amendment rights to receive information and ideas. Federal courts have already ruled this type of legislative ban attempt unconstitutional and I am sure this will be that case with HB 900 if passed. Legislators know this and are purposefully wasting our taxpayer's time and money on hateful and discriminatory legislation to further their discriminatory agenda against already vulnerable and marginalized groups of which my family are members.

Rylie Batten

Self

Hawkins, TX

I support this bill for my children

Janet Mariani

Self

Dallas, TX

Stop this INSANE PORNOGRAPHY in our schools!!!! How could this be happening?!! I'm sick of this agenda to hurt children and families!!! This is MARXISM.

Kay Knight

Myself

Mason, TX

I support HB900

Joyce Cervenka
Self
Hallettsville, TX
I vote for this bill

Mary Caldwell
Self / retired
Dallas, TX

My name is Mary Caldwell. As a concerned grandparent and resident of the great State of Texas, I am very concerned about the books that our youth have access to in public school libraries. I would like to see some regulation on the books that are included in public school libraries. Please vote in support of HB 900. Our children deserve it!

Leslie Winters
Myself
Round Rock, TX

Thank you Representative Patterson for this Bill, I am in support of it. These books are just not necessary in public education where minors are able to get them. Many of these books have horrible stories of abuse and assaults that young readers should not be introduced to. They cause confusion in an already fragile mind. No.

Debby Kohutek
Self retired
Whitney, TX

Please protect our children. No porn, no transgender or social equity stupidity.

Cheryl Townsend
Church
Abilene, TX
I support HB900

Cheryl Smith, Headmaster
Llano Christian Academy
Llano, TX
Cheryl Smith supports HB 900

Helen Rambo, Grandmother
Myself
Cypress, TX
I support this bill

Julia Labens
self
Austin, TX

I don't believe in the regulation of books, I do not believe in the restriction of reading materials when America has one of the worst literacy rates in the world and Texas especially is thought of as an under-read illiterate place. Public school libraries are where I learned to love books, where I built my imagination, where I learned who I am. No one should control what a child wants to read or learn about.

Kathleen Barrett
Self - Marketing Analyst
Spring, TX

This important bill has my support, as a mother of school and college aged children. And as concerned citizen of my community. Our children do not need books of filth in their schools - stick to reading, writing, arithmetic. Our schools are underperforming and not holding up their goal of proper education and practical preparation for college or the workforce. That is what my taxpaying dollars must be focused on.

Lisa Newbern
Self/ retired
Edna, TX

Please help support this bill

John Loveless
Self
Bynum, TX

There is NO place in libraries for pornography let alone where accessible to children. Pornography is an evil this nation and culture was far better off, pre 1960s. If we are to save this nation, we must first save it's soul. Please support the removal of pornography.

Loretta Hernandez, Retired teacher
Self
Edna, TX

NNNNOOOOOO!!!

JoAnn Fleming, Executive Director
Grassroots America - We the People PAC
Flint, TX

Grassroots America - We the People PAC strongly supports HB 900 by State Rep. Jared Patterson, and we thank him for his early and consistent opposition to the pervasively vulgar and sexually explicit books and materials found in school districts across Texas. We strongly support the mandatory library standards and the vendor mandates and penalties laid out in this bill.

As a statewide organization, we continue to receive from outraged citizens shocking reviews of books readily accessible to children. These books contain blatant pornography, sexual deviancy, and pedophilia that rape the minds of children and normalize behavior that promotes utter degradation of our culture and reduces human sexuality to soul-eating animalistic acts. The bastardizing of childhood innocence with smut readily found in our public schools must stop! We urge the Public Education Committee to protect our most precious resource - Texas children! Pass HB 900 out of committee and push for its passage by the full House!

Thank you for serving the people of Texas,

JoAnn Fleming
Executive Director
Grassroots America - We the People PAC
Texas Conservative Grassroots Coalition

Lisa Mito
Self
Sonora, TX

As Texans we need to support not indoctrinating our children Nagra fee for things that are not age-appropriate

Robert Gross
self
Corpus Christi, TX

The overt action of our public-school officials to place sexually explicit books in our tax supported public-school libraries is beyond reasonable and moral standards of behavior. What is the objective of such action? Is it to uplift our children to higher standards of behavior? Is it to teach respect for fellow humans, and to honor their integrity and self-worth as children of God? Or, is it to denigrate, diminish and destroy all moral fiber in our future generations? The answers are logically obvious. Pass this bill to turn us back to some sanity in public administration of our schools and save us from destruction of our future families and their children.

Kerri Delaney
Mesquite ISD
Dallas, TX

Books that QUALIFIED librarians choose for their students should never be government regulated. Librarians interact with students, see some of them on a daily basis, and provide a working knowledge of literature for students. Limiting them to only books chosen by someone outside the education environment, even TEA, would be a detriment to our students' learning and growth. Stop trying to police books for political agenda!

Lana Allred
Self
Leonard, TX

I support this bill.

Kari Hough
The Yellowrose of Texas Republican Women
Magnolia, TX

I am in support of this bill.

Kristi Wilcox, Ms.
Self
Abilene, TX

I support this bill. There are certain things that children should not be exposed to. We do not allow our children to be exposed to the sexual content in movies, bars, etc. The same is true for books. Our children should not be able to walk into a public or school library and be exposed to things that are not age appropriate. We work hard to protect our children from becoming victims of sexual predators. We should be doing the same to protect our children when it comes to access to the books they read.

Genger Galloway, Mrs
Self
Crockett, TX

I strongly support HB 900 because it prohibits harmful, sexually explicit materials in public schools.

Tm Fine
HCRPT
La Porte, TX

"I strongly support HB900 because it prohibits harmful, sexually explicit materials in public schools"... We are swimming in the abyss of immorality and soon we will drown in it if we do not stop this radical nonsense of demoralizing our children.

Kay Mershon
Tom Green County Republican party
San An, TX

I support HB 900! We need to do everything we can to protect our children from those who are attempting to educate them about things that are immoral and subjects they do not need to be taught in school. "Woke" doesn't belong in Texas public schools!

Carol Yarman
self
Joshua, TX

Please restrict porno from children!

Shirley Goerdel
Self-retired teacher
Llano, TX

I am in favor of the bill.

Vanessa Minoff
Self
Flower Mound, TX

No more inappropriate books

Lanora Caviness
Self
The Woodlands, TX

We do not want explicit books to end up in our children's schools

Diana ARW Hartmann
ARW
Abilene, TX

Please Support house bill 900 by Patterson. It is so important to protect our children.

George Tyson
Self
Colorado City, TX

I strongly support HB 900. Sexually explicit books do not belong in our schools unless it is part of an approved health program for teens and above. The State has no place in exposing our kids to sexual explicit material especially without parent consent.

Edward Horn
PACECASTER LLC
Whitney, TX

Absolutely no books that suggest pornography.

Elaine Phipps
Self/retired
Abilene, TX

We need to take back our education, our children need to be educated in real education not sex.

Diane Frederickson, Ms

Isaiah's Place

Whitney, TX

Protect students from all porn and all sexual materials from public libraries and school libraries.

Jeane Hudson, Ms.

Self

Stephenville, TX

Regulation of books sold to include public schools.

Ashle Finch

Self

Joshua, TX

I support this bill

John DeMontel

self

Corpus Christi, TX

Support passage.

Kathleen Hayes

Self

Houston, TX

I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB900 because it protects our most precious resource, our children.

HB 900 prohibits harmful, sexually explicit materials in public schools and I support it!!

Laura Fulkerson

Self

Mason, TX

In support of HB 900

Georgia Stewart

Self-retired

Llano, TX

I support HB 900

Regina Dominy

Self

Edna, TX

I support HB900

Jennifer Larrew
Self
Lakeway, TX

Say NO to HB 900. Our librarians are qualified to decide which books go in our libraries and there are already processes in place for parents to opt their children out of checking out books they deem offensive. Please say no to HB 900. Thank you.

Thomas Troxtell
HOWEISD
Howe, TX

Please vote FOR

Lucila Seri
myself
Arlington, TX

I am FOR this bill. Children should only be accessing age-appropriate books. The majority of these new sex ed books are pornographic and have no place in our schools or library areas where children have access.

Gail Capps, Dallas Eagle Forum President
Dallas Eagle Forum and self
Dallas, TX
Support

Norma Jeter, Mrs
Self. Retired
Spring, TX

Please support this very timely bill!

Alexandria Whitworth
Rep. Patterson
Whitewright, TX

We must protect our children from the sexually explicit books in the schools!

Cindy Thompson
Self
Whitewright, TX

Please take these books out of our schools.

David OConnor
Self
Cedar park, TX

For

Kris Kittle
self
Fort Worth, TX

Please SUPPORT this bill! We need to keep age inappropriate materials OUT OF SCHOOLS!

chris cole
Self
Odessa, TX
Na

Rustin Wright
Self
Frisco, TX

I fully support this bill. Porn has no place in schools.

Keith Kittle
Selfself
Fort Worth, TX

Support this bill. We don't need sexually explicit books in schools.

Carol Yarman
self
Joshua, TX

stop porn!!!

IMELDA MITCHELL
Self
Porter, TX

We need to protect our children from sexually explicit books.

Chrissy Beltran
Self
El Paso, TX

I am in absolute disagreement with this bill. Having any entity aside from the trained school leadership vet resources and decide whether they are appropriate or not is limiting access to my children's books at school. That is not your responsibility. I will not have what is happening in Florida happen to my child's school here in El Paso, Texas.

Who decided what is sexually relevant?" A family? A family with two moms? A mother? A pregnant mother? A school crush?
This is inherently dangerous and unacceptable.

Jordon Wilhite
Self, stay at home Mom
Sadler, TX

Please pass this bill to preserve the innocence of Texas children.

Jennifer Payne
Self/ infant care specialist
Fort Worth, TX

Please support this bill.

Hayden Head, Chair of the Volunteers and Headquarters Committee for the Parker County Republican Party

Self

Aledo, TX

Support

Andra Troxtell

Howe ISD

Howe, TX

Please vote FOR

Scott Jacoby

Republican

Sonora, TX

This must be passed.

Reagan Troxtell

HOWEISD

Howe, TX

Please vote FOR

Sarah Johnston

Self Data Analyst

Hawley, TX

I would like some better vetting of books available with sexual content, both heterosexual and others, that are available via schools and public libraries to children in k - 8th grade. There are snippets of books available to minor children that honestly equal child porn. In my parenting opinion, it is up to the parents to allow access or not to anything nearing what has been made public and they can purchase the materials if they see fit to. Harlequin romance or 50 shades of gray would be deemed inappropriate, many of these books are equal in what they write only hidden behind a label of for kids.

Constance Curtis

Teacher

Frisco, TX

As a teacher, certain books are triggering and those triggers ought to be addressed by family or school counselor.

Andrew Eller

State Republican Executive Committeeman SD24, Republican Party of Texas, Self

Temple, TX

I am in favor of this bill. It is a common sense bill that will help fight pornography in school libraries.

Tiffany Nelson

Myself

Spring, TX

FOR

Sarah Bahcall

Self

Plano, TX

Protect our children from sexually explicit material in schools!!

Aaron Jimenez

Self

Austin, TX

Our librarians are qualified to decide which books go in our libraries and there are already processes in place for parents to opt their children out of checking out books they deem offensive. Please say no to HB 900. Thank you.

Rachel Hale

Self

Henderson, TX

Please vote FOR this bill! The State of TX has a compelling interest to protect Texas children from sexually explicit and pervasively vulgar books. This is NOT a First Amendment or Parental Rights issue. In fact State Board of Ed v. Pico and the FCC are successfully protecting children from sexually explicit content. This has nothing to do with censoring LGBTQ etc children should not be exposed to ANY sexual content period. We greatly appreciate the effort that was put into this bill and protecting all children in TX.

Sara Kitchen, MS.

Self, Outreach Vision Impairment Specialist

Austin, TX

This is unnecessary. School librarians already select materials that are completely appropriate for their school communities. What HB 900 is referring to is censorship by the state, which is unethical. I oppose HB 900.

Marie Curtis

Self/project manager

Howe, TX

For

Jim McCann

Myself

Conroe, TX

Please protect our children from sexually explicit books. There is no educational value except in the minds of all too many liberal educators. Reading, writing, math are the priorities.

Suzette Porter

Self

Bee Cave, TX

No porn in schools - do not sexualize the children or Texas

CATHY ELTON

None

arlington, TX

No sexually explicit books in children's section at public libraries!!! Unreal that Our State has sunken so low in morality!!!

Jaime Agee
Self
Ravenna, TX
FOR

maria l smith
self
llano, TX

I support this bill . Thank you.

Garry Fama, mr
self retired
Mckinney, TX

I strongly support HB 900 because it prohibits harmful, sexually explicit materials in public schools.”

Denise Ringer
Self
Dallas, TX

There should be no age inappropriate, sexual or pornographic books purchased or available in our public school libraries. There should be consequences for school districts if and where they are found.

Doris Woolery
Self - Hood County (Child advocate)
Granbury, TX

All books should be viewed to make sure they are not promoting elicited and immoral sexual materials, promoting anti-biblical relationships or brainwashing our children in any way. That is not the right of a school. Those teachings are the right of the parents. The school's job is to teach facts in the adopted curriculum along with teaching children how to be critical thinkers & problem solvers. It is not the school's job to teach our children what to think.

Larry Berger, Mr
Self
Jonestown, TX

I hereby offer my support for this Bill

Janna Castloo
Self
Mineola, TX

I strongly supports HB 900, which prohibits sexually explicit books in public schools.

Kathryn Puckett
Self
Howe, TX
Please!

Joseph Najera

Myself

Lakeway, TX

For HB 900, too many pornographic books in public school libraries. A rating system would greatly help.

Lois Decker

self, musician/artist

Fort Worth, TX

Please protect our young children's minds from books that portray pornographically explicit sex pictures and materials. If they're too young to vote, to drink, to drive, they are too young to question their sexuality. **LET THEM HAVE A CHILDHOOD!**

Bonita Overbey

Self

Sherman, TX

For

Robin Sommerfeld

Texas Resident

Fort Worth, TX

School libraries should not include sexually inappropriate or subject matter not appropriate for children. I support the passage of HB 900.

Melody Gillespie

Self

Bowie, TX

FOR!

Scott Wedge

Self

Plano, TX

I support this bill and ask for legislative support in making it a reality.

Bobby Overbey

Self

Sherman, TX

For

Kelly Ashmore

Self

Sherman, TX

FOR

Sheryl Tavarez, Mrs.

Republican Party

Robert Lee, TX

This is not right and our children should not be subjected to this!

TISHA CROW, SREC

crow insurance agency

Odessa, TX

I STRONGLY SUPPORT SB900 AS IT WORKS TO PROHIBIT HAMFUL AND SEXUALLY EXPLICIT MATERIALS IN OUR TEXAS PUBLIC SCHOOLS. IF HB900 FAILS AND THIS MATERIAL IS ALLOWED TO FURTHER INFEST OUR SCHOOLS OUR FUTURE GENERATIONS WILL DEAL WITH EVEN MORE SEXUAL VIOLENCE AND CRIME THAN WE HAD EVEN IMAGINED. THIS IS A BILL TO PROTECT THE FUTURE OF TEXAS.

William Nance

Self

Bells, TX

I am FOR HB 900

Luis Pedraza, Precinct chair Montgomery county 110

Self

Conroe, TX

I am for HB 900, it's time for Texas to act. Control these pervasively vulgar books get them out of our libraries

Joan Reed

Self, retired

Llano, TX

I'm voting FOR HB 900

Shannon Sims

Self

Denison, TX

We should be paying close attention to the content of books at public schools and removing those that parents feel are not suitable for their children. Parents should be included on decisions about the content their children are exposed to.

Kathryn Marquis

Self, Special Education Aide

Edna, TX

As a grandmother, and a person whose career has been ensuring that children are protected from things that could be harmful to them, I know that we must protect children from sexually explicit content.

The law must continue to protect children. Children are not adults with adult abilities to process sexual information . And knowledge of sexual activities do not protect them against being taken advantage of by others. In fact, normalizing sexual behavior to children, I believe makes them more susceptible to abuse. Materials that are disguised as educational materials that are not age appropriate are plainly just another way to sell pornography!

Mary Lou Hudman

A Benefit Source - a member of NABIP

Dallas, TX

It is critical that this bill be passed to protect our children!

Tamyra Duke

Self

Abilene, TX

Here is my testimony: My name is Tamyra Duke, and I'm testifying FOR HB 900, representing myself. I firmly believe that it is harmful for children to have access to sexually explicit materials. It is important to protect our children from harmful materials, and we have these statutes already in our code. One major problem is the exemptions included, which this bills should address at least in part. Any exemption for educational purpose or because a book has literary value should be struck from code. If it is harmful to give a child sexually explicit material as a layperson in public, then it shouldn't be considered not harmful if the same material comes from a school library or librarian. These materials are available for purchase in the free market, and parents who wish for their children to have access to them are free to provide them as they see fit. However, to place all other children at risk by having these available in schools is extremely inappropriate. Requiring a vetting process so that these books don't get into schools in the first place is another important step, as well as disallowing vendors who continue to push these books on the the schools from being allowed to continue providing their services. I would also suggest that the American Library Association is no friend to the schools, as they have an agenda in place to allow for these materials to be provided to children under their Library Bill of Rights. They oppose any attempts to limit any and all material by age, and to provide any ratings that would assist parents in knowing which books contain sexually explicit material.

Again, I strongly urge you to support HB900. Thank you.

Dianne Guerry, Ms

Self retired

Arlington, TX

"I strongly support HB 900 because it prohibits harmful, sexually explicit materials in public schools."

Pamela Fusselman

Self

Spring, TX

I wholeheartedly support the passage of this bill to protect our children from obscene materials.

Kathy Newman, Mrs

Tom Green Republican Party

San Angelo, TX

I was a school teacher for 33 years. Children are our future, but let them be children! They don't need to worry about adult decisions yet. They will be exposed to these topics in some books that they are wanting in schools!

James Walker

Self

Mason, TX

I support

Paul Yamarick

self

Moulton, TX

I am in support of HB900. There must be reasonable limits set on access to these types of books.

Diana Young
Self
Ravenna, TX

I am FOR HB 900.
Vendors profit from the sale of the books, so they must be held accountable for the content.

Deborah Avellano, Denton County Precinct Chair
True Texas Project
Corinth, TX

I strongly support HB 900 to rid the school libraries of sexually explicit materials, totally inappropriate for children and young people. Please pass this today onto the Calendar for a vote! Thank you.

David Hopf, Dr.
Self
Fredericksburg, TX
I support HB 900

Coy Daniels
FOR
Conroe, TX
FOR HB900

Jennifer Yoch
Self Teacher
Blue Ridge, TX

I'm FOR this bill because it is currently very difficult for librarians to identify which books are sexually explicit before purchasing them. No one should distribute obscene books to minors.

Diane Daniels
FOR
Conroe, TX
FOR HB900

Windsar Fields
Self/Stay at home mom/Former teacher
Spicewood, TX

Please pass this bill to help keep sexually explicit and inappropriate books out of our schools.

sharon Conyers
school children
San Saba, TX
FOR

Joanie Pikl
Event planner and election worker
McKinney, TX

Children should not have access to pornographic or sexually explicit books. Please protect all children by removing these harmful books from our school libraries.

Steve Warrington
Self
Driftwood, TX

I support HB 900

Richard Gillespie
Self
Bowie, TX

I am for HB 900!

Mindy McQuilkin
Self, pet sitting
Flower Mound, TX

Support HB 900

Stuart McMullen
AFPE
Leander, TX

I am FOR HB 900.

Claudette Webb
Odessa Republican party
Odessa, TX

I support HB 900

Marisa Williams
Self, SAHM
McKinney, TX

Kudos to Rep Patterson for authoring this bill. As a retired public school teacher, I support this bill as there is no reason to have obscene material in educational settings. The children need us to protect them from inappropriate books, not spend tax-payer money to purchase the books. Thank you for approving HB 900. Let's get it out of Committee and onto Calendars.

Carma Halfmann
Self
Fredonia, TX

Allow children to be children!

Leigh Montgomery, Mrs.

Self

Frisco, TX

Books with obscene pictures and words should not be in school AT ALL! Where are we as a country and as humans when this is in question? I vote FOR HB 900.

Tamela Strunk, LVN

Medical Professionals

Colorado City, TX

PROTECT OUR CHILDREN NOW & FOREVER!

Amy Hopkins, Mother

Self

Austin, TX

The library system has allowed sexually explicit books into our schools. We should not have our children sexualized when we send them to school. Allowing parents the ability to engage with their kids on personal values when exposed to this material is the important for our children. We need a parental opt-in to sexually explicit books and the rating system similar to movies in the text of HB 900.

Jacob Roberts, Mr

Self, student

Howe, TX

End harmful sexually explicit books in schools. I am in strong support of HB 900.

Anita Querry

Self

Arlington, TX

I am FOR HB 900 to protect our children.

Anita Hilton

Self

Llano, TX

Pornography should never be shown to children, no matter what the excuse

Susan Kershaw

Self

Frisco, TX

I support HB 900.

Carol Guerra

Self

Tomball, TX

I am in full support of Bill HR 900, regulating books in our Texas schools. Obscene books should be removed from schools through 12th grade.

Tiffani Czapinski

Self

Canyon Lake, TX

As a parent and concerned citizen, implore you to support HB900. The safety and well-being of our children, their childhood and mental well being deserve to be protected.

Krystle Alvarado

Self, Texas mom

Austin, TX

Please vote for HB 900 to protect our children from inappropriate materials while in school. We have such limited public education funds, why would we spend any on putting sexually explicit materials in front of children? The sentences in these books are inappropriate to sing in choir, act out in theater, write in English class or draw in art - why are they okay to read in the library? Also, there is no rating system to warn children that they may be reading something scary or indecent for them. The book jacket nor online synopsis explain that the book is about rape, incest, transgenderism, suicide, etc. You cannot unread a topic once you've been exposed to it. Please vote for HB 900!

Anne Pietramale

Self

Houston, TX

I strongly support HB 900 because it prohibits harmful, sexually explicit materials in public schools. It also protects the school system from oppression by those who want to enforce ideology counter to the desires of parents, teachers, principals, librarians who just want to teach and provide a solid education for students. Ensure that Texas funds will be strictly used for a student's traditional, technological, vocational education.

Jennifer Woodall

Self

Odessa, TX

Vote yes! We need this bill to protect our children from highly inappropriate material.

James Sims

Self

Pottsboro, TX

Please support this bill. Let parents decide what their kids are exposed to and at what time. Anything can be taught at home by parents as they see fit, but I cannot undo harm done to them at their schools. Schools should not be exempt from being held accountable for exposing children to obscene materials.

Larry Nance

Cedar Creek Lakers

Mabank, TX

I think we should all do what we can to keep pornography out of our society and away from our children. That being said it only makes sense to keep it out of our text books and school libraries.

I believe there are text books and library books available that would not be inappropriate or embarrassing to read in any public school meeting.

Susan Dantzler

Self

Harper, TX

Pornography must be removed from school libraries and classrooms. This is actually a no brainer.

Brigetta Millen
Act for America
Montgomery, TX

I am FOR HB 900 please Vote YES! I represent Act for America also, we have 175, 000 registered members in TX and a little over a million nationally. Bills like these lead the way for the rest of the states. We will be proud to share this National and to the great state of Texas when it passes as a beacon of American values to protect our children. We are watching this session closely and send information regularly to our members. Thank you and God Bless Texas.

Orpha Berry
Self
Midland, TX

I support HB900

Amanda Estevez
Myself
Abilene, TX

State men and state women of Texas, my husband and I are in support for HB 900. These books are not educational instead these books are pornographic and written by adults with pedophilic fantasies. Or even as far as of "child erotica". This is an agenda to destroy the minds of the youth of Texas in addition to depopulation of Americans. We are Americans who support, protect and follow the US constitution; however, just as we do not allow dangerous books such Mein Kumpf or Hustlers magazines in our tax payer funded public libraries because the awareness of how destructive and corrupt it is in nature. Therefore, we should treat these books in similar fashion. Destructive, perverse and corrupted. Let us not enable evil behavior which will harm and destroy the youth of this great state of Texas for all classes, races, faiths, and sexual orientation. We must protect our future and I pray everyone who represent Texas does what is right and legal. Thank you and G-d bless.

Sarah Rouse
Self
Frisco, TX

Please regulate books included in public school libraries.

Karon Jones
Great Grandmother
Paris, TX

Protect our greatest assets! Our children!

Riley Troxtell
HOWEISD
Howe, TX

Please vote FOR

Selina Martin
Families for Ed
Allen, TX

I support this bill

Erika Bodoin

PTA

Austin, TX

Librarians are the experts that we should be supporting in regards to this heinous bill, which seeks to gatekeep materials from ALL students who may benefit from learning about cultures and identities either the same or different than their own. I grew up in the 90s, when these books were few and far between in the publishing world, to the disservice of children and adults alike. We need representation in our stories, and we need to see other experiences besides our own reflected in our materials. Librarians understand this and provide options, let me emphasize OPTIONS for students to check out books of interest to them, and for teachers to provide students with education that represents our varied experiences in the United States and beyond. We want global citizens, not hermetically sealed and historically inaccurate stories that reflect the ideas of the 1% of so-called legislators who are using their power to attack children and librarians.

My child, who is a 6th grader, read the book Ivy Aberdeen's Letter to the World, and there were definitely consequences to that. We read it together, in fact. The consequences were that my child not only saw representation in its pages, my child also saw the world of possibilities in books that my child had not seen before. My child was so moved that my child wrote a letter to the author, Ashley Herring Blake, who was generous enough to respond with a signed bookplate for my child to place in her beloved copy. The consequence to my child reading this book that so many want to have banned from our school libraries is that my child read this question from the author: "What's your letter to the world?" The consequence was that my child truly thought about this question. The consequence was that my child understood that it was a question worthy of my child's attention. The consequence was that when my child's teacher provided small journals to each student (out of his own money, incidentally, thanks again to TX Lege), my child wrote poetry and the poetry was beautiful and real. My child wrote about the tiny scratches on our leather couch, my child wrote about the colors that represented how they felt. They said to me, "Maybe my letter to the world is poetry," and I said, you know what, maybe it is.

This move to limit our libraries and our children's imaginations is to gatekeep everyone's letter to the world except for those in positions of power. Power-hoarding is a white supremacy culture characteristic and it has no place in Texas schools. Please do not vote for this bill that seeks to harm LGBTQIA+ students and disempower our librarians. Think of your favorite authors over the years, the books that meant something to you as a child, the ones that opened your eyes to something new. Would the authors of those books want this for you, or would they want you to have limitless choices in life, the opportunity not just to read but to understand, and to live?

Gage Troxtell

HOWEISD

Howe, TX

Please vote FOR

Brent Lawson

Self

Tom Bean, TX

My name is Brent Lawson. I am a resident of Grayson County Texas. I am writing in support of HB 900. I beseech the Texas legislature to do everything in its power to pass this legislation. Please take every opportunity this session to pass legislation and weed out every loophole so that this issue never needs to be raised again. Protect Texas children from this material.

Laura S Pomrenke

Self / Home Maker

Fort Worth, TX

I am for HB 900.

Karen Bush

Self

Keller, TX

I support this bill.

Michel Coleman

Parents

Allen, TX

I support this bill

Amanda Stophlet

Moms for Liberty

McKinney, TX

Moms for Liberty Texas is in favor of this bill. I am the Chapter Chair if Collin County.

Galand Marshall, Mr.

Self

Lewisville, TX

I support this bill. Our children need this protection.

Marcus Williams

Self

Frisco, TX

I am for removing sexually explicit books for our school libraries. I am not a fan of little children having access to pornography in of any kind.

Barbara Chapman, Ms.

Self

Weatherford, TX

Please protect our Texas children. This should never be allowed!

Patrica Walley

Myself

Bonham, TX

Please regulate the books in public school libraries taking away all the pornographic books and materials

Regan Licciardello

Self. Student.

Llano, TX

I am FOR supporting this bill to protect children from harmful & vile content.

Anna Wylie

Self

Denison, TX

I am FOR this bill. Please vote For this bill.

Susan Dcruggs
Self
The woodlands, TX
FOR

Mande Kalbfleisch
self
Denison, TX

I am for this regulation

Lincoln Achilli
Self and famiky
Dallas, TX

There is no reason for sexually explicit material to be in school libraries. The specific titles are not celebrated among classical academics as providing insight to the human condition over the course of their presence on earth.

We are not too far removed from an age when this did not need to be considered via legislation, because it was generally assumed that schools were not going to be the places where students would be exposed to such material.

The very fact that the books that have promoted this outrage have all been written very recently once political activism by such interests started ought to be a clear indicator that their presence is of a political rather than educational nature. Whether or not parents by these titles for their children is one thing, but their inclusion in school libraries is and will be inappropriate.

HB900 should not only pass but by a large margin

Carolyn Nini, Ms
Self
Conroe, TX

I am for HB 900

Andrea Brantley
Self
Fredericksburg, TX

Please vote yes!!

Joy Preston
Self
Frisco, TX

I am for this bill. I don't want pornography or sexually explicit books in our school libraries.

Wendy Taylor
NTX Conservatives/Restore the Republic
Frisco, TX

Please pass HB900z

Christine Whitmore

Self, Engineer

Sherman, TX

I am FOR HB 900. There is absolutely no reason children should be exposed to explicit and pornographic material in public schools. If the material is too indecent to be read aloud at school board meetings, how can it be considered appropriate for children to consume? HB 900 is completely reasonable in restricting explicit content and protecting the minds of children who are not fully developed in being able to appropriately process materials of this nature.

Joyce Pulich

self

Austin, TX

I support Texas school librarians who are highly trained professional educators that select books based on local policies, approved by our school board. I trust school librarians, not out-of-state vendors, to determine if content in books is appropriate. And parents, not the state, are responsible for determining what their children read.

Brett Rogers

Self

Grand Prairie, TX

I am FOR this bill

Kristine Ludwinski

Matthew XVIII Group

Fairview, TX

I heartily support passage of HB 900. It is a no brainer that we must keep sexually explicit materials out of our schools! Children do NOT need to be exposed to such things that are very damaging to their young minds. There is no good reason to have any such materials available to our students, other than to pander to groups that do not respect decent morals and values. Thank you.

Jodie Dover

Self; mama bear

Lakeway, TX

I am FOR this bill! As a mom to two 10 generation Texans, I want sexually explicit books out of our public schools!

Gloria McDonald

Self

Bartonville, TX

I support this bill. Protect Texas children.

Franklin Hill, Mr.

Dallas County Republican Party Precinct Chair #3607 self

Desoto, TX

I totally agree that books being sold to public school libraries should be regulated to protect our young people from being exposed to visual and written material that they shouldn't be exposed to especially at the elementary and intermediate school levels. The job and duty of public schools is to educate children academically, leave the extremely sensitive subjects to the parents and guardians. I know children have access to a lot of information from the internet on the cell phone devices but the parents have the opportunity to monitor and set a block on the content that their child can access. School libraries shouldn't in my opinion provide an opportunity for a student to access inappropriate content and the parent not have any idea what their child may be looking at or reading. You don't have to check out a book from the library to read it or look at the pictures inside it.

Sheila Ealey, Dr.

Self

Sugar Land, TX

I'm FOR this bill. Children should be protected especially in school from sexually explicit content and material. Otherwise our school libraries are guilty of abusive content before age of consent.

Renee Llamas

United National Life Ins Co of America

McKinney, TX

HB 900 PLEASE VOTE FOR THIS BILL. PROTECT OUR CHILDREN.

Ardith M Shea

Self

Llano, TX

I support HB 900. I do not believe that sexually explicit material should be available to persons under 18 years of age. If the parents or guardians wish to expose the minor person, that is their prerogative. I am almost 75 years old that kind of material was not available to me and others while

Sara Buskirk

Self

Sadler, TX

I support this Bill and urge everyone else who is a Republican to do as well . If you don't you need to go to the Democrat side because you have not upheld your party values you signed up for .

Enough time has been wasted and the children are still being abused with this mentally ill curriculum. Shame, shame for letting this go on for so long . Parents and tax payers have had enough of spineless representatives. We will be watching the votes . Remember that ..you work for us not the other way around. Thank you Patterson for standing up and doing your job .

Fed up in N Texas

I'm starting to think moral and psyche evals are needed to hold and office and see who is hiding under the Republican name . If you won't protect the family unit and children it's time to be relieved of your title and party affiliation.

Erika Browning

True Texas Project

Duncanville, TX

I am registering my support for HB 900. A public school library is no place for sexually explicit books that even a school board wouldn't want read out loud at their meetings.

Karl Schafer-Junger

Self - Realtor

Frisco, TX

This should not be hard but apparently it is. Our schools are in deep decline and pornography in school libraries should be the least of our issues. But - it is an issue throughout the state. It really comes down to parents rights and the sexualizing of children. Ask yourself...who gains from this? Why would anyone possibly want this? As I see it, it's wrapped up in a larger cultural battle unfortunately. Does The State control the child or do the child's parents? Not everyone can home school, or send their children to private schools where it's easier to influence things like this. Please protect our children by voting for Jared Patterson's bill. TY
- Karl

Charles Shirley
self
Spring, TX
FOR

Sheryl Lampo, Mrs
Self - retired
College Station, TX

Please vote for HB 900

Mary Stimek
Myself
Denton, TX

To the members of the House Public Education Committee:

There is no educational value in having sexually explicit books in our public school libraries. The reason these materials have been introduced at all is that some adults are trying to "groom" our children into thinking about and exploring sexually deviant practices. The innocence of childhood lasts but a fraction of a person's life; but it's when the values and morals of a child are formed. Parents have the right to raise their children without interference from sexual predators.

Roger Wheelock
Greater Than I ministries
McKinney, TX

I heartily support this bill! How could anyone think it's ok make pornographic books available to minors? We don't allow this language and suggestive scenes on TV, why are we promoting it in schools??

Jatonna Morgan
Self
Mckinney, TX

We need to protect our children's innocence.

Ashley Boyers
Self/substitute teacher
Frisco, TX

I support Representative Patterson's Bill, and I am grateful for his persistence regarding obscene material found in some of our public schools. Our kids are in school for **READING, WRITING, MATH, SCIENCE, HISTORY AND GRAMMAR**. If parents want their kids to have access to these books, go to the public library or Barnes and Noble. Common sense!

Leslie Morgan
Self
Fredericksburg, TX

I beg all of you to accept/pass HB900 to protect the minds and hearts of Texas children from exhale inappropriate materials in our Texas schools.

To protect my own children they are no longer allowed to check out books from the school library and I feel the need to submit a yearly letter to the school laying out what sexually inappropriate materials my children cannot have access to. This is ridiculous. Schools should be mentally, physically and spiritually safe for ALL Texas children.

Laura Townsend
Self Nurse
Frisco, TX

Please vote for HB900 which will not allow pornography in our school libraries

Janelle Davis
Self
Celina, TX

Please pass this bill! We should not have sexually explicit books in public school libraries. There is no educational need. To this day, Prosper ISD has sexually explicit books in our schools. All it takes is one time for a child to become addicted to pornography. Please protect the innocence of children and pass this bill.

Stacey Watts
Self/homemaker/ISO Office Manager
Mckinney, TX

We need to protect our children from pornography and other radical ideologies. Hold the book companies selling these books accountable and allow the schools and school boards to take immediate action to remove the materials.

Orlew Lauger, Mrs
Self, retired educator and concerned grandmother
Fort Worth, TX

It is the responsibility of parents, not governments, nor publishers, to determine the appropriateness of reading materials. Please do not deny citizens this responsibility.

Cheryl Inman
GCRW
Sherman, TX

Please protect our children by passing this.

Bea Ann Bridges
Self homemaker
Carrollton, TX

For

Summer Elliott
Self
McKinney, TX

I am for this bill

Peter Smith, Mr
self, programmer
Magnolia, TX

FOR

Tim Inman
GCRW
Sherman, TX

Please make sure this bill passes. We need to be an advocate for our children

Tammy Conrad
Self
Round Rock, TX

I want to register my opposition to this bill. Educators, librarians and school districts are able to determine the appropriateness of books for students. As an educator myself, I am professionally trained with a college degree and a teaching certification. Librarians are especially trained on how to pick out appropriate materials for students at various ages. Legislators need to trust us to do our jobs. Parents always have the option to pull a book they don't want their own child to read. But they don't have a right to pull books from all students.

Thank you.

Christol Farris
Self VP MEDIA
Spicewood, TX

I am FOR HB900. I want sexually explicit books removed from TX public schools.

Jill Glover
Chair, Legislative Priorities Committee Republican Party of Texas
Double Oak, TX

Parents and citizens have been horrified to learn these sexually explicit books are in public schools. This content presents material that children's brains are not developmentally equipped to process, and causes confusion and feelings that are not conducive to normal development. We are seeing an exponential rise in mental health problems in youth. Developing identity is a normal task of human development, and these sexually explicit books impair that process, contributing to mental distress. The Republican Party of Texas Legislative Priorities Committee strongly supports this bill, and respectfully urges you to pass this bill quickly out of committee. Thank you so much.

Zenyth Gale
Self / performance artist
Copperas cove, TX

The majority of Texans oppose this! Fear of LGBTQ subjects and the drive to censor them does nothing to benefit society, and actively harms LGBTQ people, including children.

Doris Fike, Pct. Chair 102, Montgomery County, Texas
Self, Retired Educator
Conroe, TX

Strongly urge you to support and vote FOR, HB 900 and to protect the innocence of our children.

Vanessa Hirt
self
Mckinney, TX

FOR

Naomi Narvaiz, SREC SD25
State Republican Executive Committee Senate District 25
New Braunfels, TX

I am for this bill. Texas must protect children from the attacks on their minds, bodies and spirit. Our children will all end up with mental disorders if this assault on them at their most vulnerable ages continues.

Cathy Marchino
Self Physical Therapist
McKinney, TX

Yes

Elysia B.
Unsure
Georgetown, TX
Support HB 900

Chris Benedict
Family Values
Lakeway, TX

I am FOR HB900. I want sexually explicit books removed from TX public schools.

Kimberly Weber
Montgomery County Republican Party, Precinct Chair 97
Magnolia, TX

I support this bill 100%!

Brenda Smith
Self
Montgomery, TX

I strongly support HB 900 because it prohibits harmful, sexually explicit materials in public schools.

Jena Masquelier
Self
Frisco, TX

Support this!

Thank you for removing unacceptable and inappropriately sexualized material from our libraries (and further, remove from all instructional material physical and digital).

Jody Thigpen
Matthew XVIII Group
Plano, TX

They're coming after our kids. Get the pornography out of the schools.

Byron Holland
Self
Greenville, TX

I support House Bill 900.

Dawn Tucker
Self
Odessa, TX

“I strongly support HB900 - it prohibits harmful, sexually explicit materials in public schools.”
Support HB900

Rachel Nyffeler, Dr.
Self
Montgomery, TX

I strongly support HB 900 because it prohibits harmful, sexually explicit materials in public schools.

John Erickson
Self retired
Keller, TX

Parents, not the state of Texas, are responsible for what books their children are reading.
A concerned grandparent in Keller ISD

Diana Ferguson
self
Spring Branch, TX

I strongly support HB 900 because it prohibits harmful, sexually explicit materials in public schools.

Rebecca Smith
Self
Conroe, TX

I strongly support HB 900 because it prohibits harmful, sexually explicit materials in public schools.

Lennea Hartoonian

My 4 children who reside in Texas!

Frisco, TX

Yes, pass this bill!

Hard to even imagine this has been going on in our Texas public school libraries for maybe a decade. Sexually explicit books have no place in public schools. If we highlight bad behaviors including incest, sex acts, drug use, profanity, cutting, suicide, and abortion, we are not helping students with mental health.

Mental health starts with healthy boundaries. Social Media has caused so much anxiety and stress on people especially children. Kids are forced to use apps and do work with iPhones in public schools and it's not healthy. They have access to way more resources than ever before. Next is no more phones in schools, so kids cannot text their friends to meet in the bathrooms to cause trouble.

It will take the passing of this bill, HB900, to begin to unravel the problems in our public schools with chaos and confusion among our teen population. Schools need to go back to basics and stop creating unnecessary problems with undermining conservative values and building a wedge between parents and their children..Children need to stay children until it is time for them to become adults. After 18 years of age, there is plenty of time to read about debauchery and abuse in literature.

Be the adults in the room and create guard rails for our kids so they might not go off the rails with a broken culture!

Sincerely,

Lennea Hartoonian

Betty Anderson, President

Montgomery Co Eagle Forum

Spring, TX

We are in favor of HB 900

CHRIS BESINGER

SELF

AUSTIN, TX

I am in favor of this bill because children deserve better. The inappropriate books in our school libraries does not have educational content therefore this bill should enforce the laws that protect children.

Celeste Padilla

self

Austin, TX

Say NO to HB 900. Our librarians are qualified to decide which books go in our libraries and there are already processes in place for parents to opt their children out of checking out books they deem offensive. Please say no to HB 900. Seriously, let's get back to less government involvement in things that don't need it. Thank you.

Holly Heisler

Self, Parent and Concerned Citizen

Katy, TX

As a parent of a KISD elementary school child, concerned citizen, and daughter of a librarian, I want librarians to determine whether content in books is appropriate—not vendors nor the state.

Respectfully, I support our highly trained and educated Texas school library professionals to select books based on local policies and approved by our school board.

Kathy Hussey
Self
Horseshoe Bay, TX
I support HB900

Condy Whaley, Mrs.
Self
Montgomery, TX

FOR removing explicit sexual materials from our libraries and away from children without an adult guardian spring of what their child is reading.

Derek Gaudlitz
Self
Floresville, TX

I am in strong support of HB 900.
It prohibits harmful, sexually explicit materials in public schools.

Monica Cline
It Takes A Family
Fredericksburg, TX

My name is Monica Cline and I SUPPORT HB 900. This bill sets a high standard for protecting Texas children from sexualization utilizing the Penal Code and other common sense actions. It sets library standards, and prohibits sexually prohibited materials in schools. Vendors are held to a high standard of rating books, and other resources, to protect children or they will not be able to sell to Texas School districts. The bill also honor Texas families by including strict parent consent language and expectation. Schools are expected to conduct bi-annual reviews and reporting. This bill is a simple and common sense approach towards protecting our children in tax-payer funded schools. Without this bill Texas families will continue to be on edge not knowing if their children are safe at school. Without this bill school children will continue to be exposed to sexually charge content that does not add value to their academic careers while having adverse affects on their emotional and mental state. Please pass HB 900 to protect Texas families and the healthy future of our state.

Amy Lancaster, Mrs
Self
Prosper, TX

It's time to stand up and protect our childrens innocents. No more sexualizing our children. Stop the sexual pornographic books in our libraries. Put an end to this evil.

Paul Elliott
Self
McKinney, TX

The obscene books being in public schools is a serious and insidious problem. These materials can cause immense damage to growing children and the here in McKinney we have found the ISD has actively worked against parents trying to remove them. It can take up to six months of going through three stages of challenges and there are still no filters for preventing more from flowing in. This is about the safety of our kids and this is a bill we need to protect their innocence.

Nathanael Navarrete
Self.
Odessa, TX

It is an absolute necessity that this bill gets supported. Me and my constituents strongly agree with what is proposed, for the sake of our little Texans.

Blake Buskirk
Self
Sadler, TX
Support hb900

Elaine Wheelock
Self
McKinney, TX

I am absolutely for this bill. We need to get these books removed from school libraries.

Amanda Wood
Love Heals Youth
Austin, TX

I strongly support HB 900 because it prohibits harmful, sexually explicit materials in public schools.

Sherry Ginter
Self
Spicewood, TX

NO PRON IN LIBRARIES!!!!

Don Gooch
Self
Frisco, TX

We support this bill and would like to see all obscene material removed from the libraries and instructional material also. Thank you

Theresa Brittain
Self
McKinney, TX

I support this bill - Vote YES!!!

Jackie Wells
Self
Llano, TX

Please keep these books away from children

Mackenzie Berglund
Self- technical account manager
Prosper, TX

I am FOR this bill! I have 4 boys, 8years and younger in PROSPER ISD and there is literally porn in our elementary school and our Superintendent does not care.

SAVE OUR CHILDREN!! PASS THIS BILL!!

Tom Holman, Citizen

Self

Austin, TX

Children shouldn't be subjected to sexual material at school, by school officials or in the library. How did we even get here?

Ryan Berglund

Self- customer success manager

Prosper, TX

I am FOR this bill! I have 4 boys, 8years and younger in PROSPER ISD and there is literally porn in our elementary school and our Superintendent does not care.

SAVE OUR CHILDREN!! PASS THIS BILL!!

Nathan Roberts

self

Dallas, TX

I am fully in support of this Bill as I believe it is our duty to protect our most precious asset (children) from an agenda that allows pornography in school libraries. If you can argue with this, you do NOT belong in the Texas Congress.

Kristine Zell

Love Heals Youth

Montgomery, TX

I strongly support HB 900 because it prohibits harmful, sexually explicit materials in public schools

Jackie Altieri

Self

Celina, TX

I do not want our children to be exposed to pornography of any kind in our school libraries.

Marianna Porter

Self

Flower Mound, TX

In support of this bill

Karen Reagan

Self

Granbury, TX

I am FOR HB900. I want sexually explicit books removed from public schools.

Lailani Rumfield

Citizen

McKinney, TX

Remove ALL Sexually explicit books from ALL school libraries. If you're not the parent it is not for schools to provide this type of information. My kids are High School and Middle school. It is inappropriate to have that type of material and pushing the Democrat views in regards to my children is unacceptable.

Sheila PATTERSON, Ms

Self

Plano, TX

I support the Bill

Michelle Ready

Self retired

Avinger, TX

Please make it a crime to make sexually explicit books or materials available to school age children.

Tracy LeBlanc, Mrs

Self

Dallas, TX

I support HB900

Bonnie Gooch

Self

Honey Grove, TX

I support this bill

Kipp Streff, Dr

Myself , doctor of chiropractic

Frisco, TX

Support it

Letha Pilgrim-Castro

Self

McKinney, TX

Please pass this bill and protect our children!

Richard Faidley

Self -- securities trader

Austin, TX

School librarians are qualified to determine which books belong in school libraries. And our current school library system already accommodates parents who wish to exempt their children from materials they deem offensive. We don't need this process to be controlled by a state board, which will inevitably be politicized and cannot reflect the values of all Texans.

Please say no to HB 900. Thank you.

Bradley Mallory, Mr

Self

Magnolia, TX

I strongly support HB 900 because it prohibits harmful, sexually explicit materials in public schools.

Maryann Wylie

Self

Plano, TX

I support this bill

Meredith Bowman

Self/teacher

Fort Worth, TX

I support HB 900

Tess Jackovich

Self

Keller, TX

Please stop the promotion of inappropriate books

Lori Kreitman

Self, CPA

Plano, TX

I support!

Steven Audish

Self

Mckinney, TX

I support HB 900 by Patterson

David Shaw

Self, entrepreneur

Dallas, TX

I am for HB 900. We must stop the insanity of providing porn in schools. And we need to hold the publishers who are earning profit accountable.

I am stunned that we are in a place where a bill such as this is even on the table.

Lisa Dennis, Mrs.

Self/Non-Profit

Dallas, TX

Pornography diss not belong in schools nor do children need to be exposed to it!

Paul Crowson, Mr

MONTGOMERY COUNTY CEC

Conroe, TX

Please vote FOR HB 900

Carrie Sheppard
Self
McKinney, TX

I am against having any books regarding sexuality in public schools.

Terri Walker
Self
Denison, TX

I support this bill

Mike Draper
Self / CPA
Frisco, TX

I support Rep. Patterson's bill. We need action to fix this issue in public schools.

Mary Masquelier
self retired legal sec'y
Frisco, TX

I strongly support this removal.

Joshua Watts
Self, marketing director
McKinney, TX

I support HB900. As a parent it's my job to protect our children from pornographic materials in our schools and hold the book sellers accountable.

William Hamilton IV, Mr.
Self
Seagoville, TX

I strongly support this bill. Sexually graphic and explicit books and materials should not be easily accessible to kids in grade school.

Lori Holtkamp
Self
Dallas, TX

Vote for

Jennifer Mallory, Mrs
Self
Magnolia, TX

I strongly support HB 900 because it prohibits harmful, sexually explicit materials in public schools.

Tamara Thigpen
Mom4Liberty
Highland Village, TX

Pass this bill!!! Save our children!
Thank you

Oreland Julie, Mrs
Self
Llano, TX

Please protect our children's innocence do not allow sexually explicit books in our libraries and schools.

Ginger Kirchhof
Self
Llano, TX

I strongly support HB900 because the classic way of using third party paths are eliminated. This material does not belong in the education cycle at all.

Brooklyn Nelson, Mrs.
Self
Highland Village, TX
FOR

Kate Tonda
Self - L&D
Little Elm, TX

HB900 is a critical first step in ensuring that Texas laws protect the innocence of children and uphold high integrity and academic standards through the public school system, specifically the school library. It is imperative that obscene and sexually explicit content no longer make its way onto the shelves of our ISD. HB900 puts accountability and ownership where it belongs related to the dissemination of inappropriate literature to minors. Thanks goes to Rep. Patterson for his work and support on this important topic.

Anne Jones, Mrs.
Self
Denton, TX

Please PASS HB 900

Jillian Hawkins-Zhorne
Precinct 1044
Dallas, TX

I am for this bill. Now that we have far left who want to steal the innocence of our children we have to now regulate them. Please vote yes on this bill

Janet Russell
Self
The Woodlands, TX

Moral sexual content scanning

Cynthia McCaleb, Mrs

Self

Kingsland, TX

Please vote Yes to this important bill!

Elaine Cook

Personal

Cedar Hill, TX

I ask you to support HB 900. This prohibits sexually explicit books in public schools.

Ronald Gooch

Self, Rancher

Honey Grove, TX

I support.

Tamara Brown, Director od Policy

Jaco Booyens Ministries

Dallas, TX

I fully support this legislation. It is critical that we protect the innocence of our children . It is our responsibility to provide age appropriate content in the school setting.

Sandra Westcott

Self

Conroe, TX

I strongly support HB 900 because it prohibits harmful, sexually explicit materials in public schools.

Pat Paavola

Self

MCKINNEY, TX

I am in favor of HB 900 and request you vote in favor of passing this bill.

Kathy Ellis

Self, retired teacher

San saba, TX

Please don't allow these books to be available in our public school libraries. We must protect our children from this dark agenda.

Deanna Fencil

Parents

San Antonio, TX

Let's get back to basics and wash our hands of this smut! Let children be children. People who want this for their kids can allow them to access it outside school.

James Westcott

self

Dallas, TX

I strongly support HB 900 because it prohibits harmful, sexually explicit materials in public schools.

Rachel Visser
Self
Frisco, TX

I am for the bill!! I don't want my students exposed to sexually explicit material.

Louis Masquelier
Self
Frisco, TX

I support this fully.

Melissa Sloan
Self
Cherokee, TX

For

Kyle Sims
Self
Mckinney, TX

Please pass this bill

Marsha Smart, Mrs.
Self-retired teacher
San Saba, TX

As a mother, grandmother, and retired Texas educator, I support Rep. Patterson's HB 900 to protect our children from sexually explicit literature.

Cindy Jones
Self
Mason, TX

I stand in support of this bill to protect the children of Texas from leftist filth and grooming. No one should ever have to worry about children in Texas being subjected to perversion and not ONE DIME of my tax money should ever be spent to put this demonic propaganda in any library in Texas

Joshua Aguilar
CCM
McKinney, TX

I am FOR HB 900 - by Patterson!!

Carolyn Jennings, Ms.
Self
Odessa, TX

The books our children have today are garbage. Our kids deserve a good education and good text books to learn from. The Bible should be used in history classes. Please pass HB 900.

Jennifer Thatcher

Self

Argyle, TX

Support, please keep porn books out of schools.

Donald Heath

Self

Plano, TX

Please make sure that we eliminate obscene books from our public schools.

Nayla Burns

SRLF

Plano, TX

I support it

William Librera, Mr

Self

San Antonio, TX

Please vote FOR HB 900. Get filthy books out of our schools.

Scott Jones

PB Fit

Mckinney, TX

WE SUPPORT IT

Francesca Poston

Self. Retired

Fredericksburg, TX

Please support this.

George Hogan

Self

Melissa, TX

Against pornographic books and content in public schools and libraries.

Karen Gilbert

Mama Bears Rising

Conroe, TX

Please support this bill!!!!

Crystal Keen

Self

San Antonio, TX

I support house bill 900.

Tressa Paavola
Self
McKinney, TX

I am asking that you Restrict Explicit and Adult-Designated Educational Resources. Protect the children from inappropriate explicit content.

Scott Anderson
Self
Frisco, TX

I support this bill 100% we don't need this garbage in the schools. We've done without it for literally hundreds of years. It has no place in our education system, nor does any other form of sexually oriented genre discussions.

Carrie Mathews
Self
Lakeway, TX

I support this bill and absolutely do NOT want any sexually explicit reading material allowed in school libraries.

Rebecca Himel, Ms.
Golden corridor Republican women
Frisco, TX

These books are able to be read, seen, advertised, reviewed in the library and by the teachers/librarians, students all without a single student checking the book out or bringing it home where the parent would then be able to find out what their child is reading or being exposed to. They must be removed. My child was made library aide, without my permission or knowledge and was having to categorize, sort, flip through and exam these books for damage, content and as part his "lessons" for that "class time" all while I had no knowledge of his assignments or duties as library aide, I have no idea what books he was forced to read, what pictures he saw or what the conversations he ere surrounding the topic of those books even being available in his public school. The impression he was given by these books being allowed in his school, even at 17 years old was that the topics and ideas suggested in those books was completely reasonable, logical and based in scientific fact because they were in his high school's library; his statement was "my school is there to provide an education that is supported by the state and federal government and would not be allowed to have books that don't fit that description, so if it's in the library then he can know it's with his education in mind and can be trusted as reasonable thought." That's from my senior, National Honor Society, Eagle Scout, church volunteer who has been raised in a Christian home senior with grandparents, aunts, uncles, and other relatives who are teachers- he is a smart, intelligent, rational person and yet he was believing the anti-science and sexually explicit books and graphic novels that his high school's library has in it.

Marlene wood
selg
San saba, TX

please vote for HB 900

Sandy Aguilar
CCM
McKinney, TX

I am FOR HB 900 - by Patterson!!

Anna Preissig
Self
Frisco, TX

I support this bill as a citizen, parent and a taxpayer

Barbara Miller
Self
Mckinney, TX

Pornographic material does not belong in schools

Lucinda Demick
Self
McKinney, TX

All books with pornographic material including but not limited to cartoon images must be removed from all public school libraries. This type of smut has no educational value and robs the innocence of our children.

James Marini, Pastor
Self
McKinney, TX
FOR

Patrick Wamhoff
Star Patriots
Frisco, TX

My name is Patrick Wamhoff representing myself and along with every normal Texan with a brain, I support Representative Jared Patterson's HB900.
Thank you,
Patrick Wamhoff

Teresa Sanderson
None
San Saba, TX

Keep sexually explicit books out of our grade schools up to 12th grade.

Kay Gill
Self
Whitesboro, TX
For

Lindsey Eby, Teacher and parent
Self
Prosper, TX

I support this bill!

Caroline Gonzales
Self and realtor
Montgomery, TX

I strongly support HB 900 because it prohibits harmful, sexually explicit materials in public schools.

Sophia Smith
Self
Fredericksburg, TX

Sexually explicit books do not belong in public schools and should be removed immediately and for good

Vedrana Cehajic
Self
Dallas, TX

I am in favor of HB900 to remove sexually explicit books from the public school libraries. It is an atrocity to the public school library system to allow sexually explicit books to be accessible by minors. This type of literature hurts the mental health of innocent children by exposing them to such mature content not suitable for minors. Please remove all sexually explicit books from public school libraries.

Sharon Jones
Self-Business Owner
The Colony, TX

We need to remove books and not buy more books that talk about sexual content to protect our children. Let them be children! Let them play and learn reading writing and arithmetic. The innocence of our children is to be protected. In the past the books in the library would have gotten parents sent to jail. It is time for us to be the "Protectors" of our children. Our children are depressed and not understanding what is happening. Their brains are developing. I am concerned with the images that the books portray that children with their undeveloped brains could normalize the behaviors.

Parker Chapman
Republican
Weatherford, TX
N/A

Deanna Stone
Self
Montgomery, TX

I strongly support HB900 because it prohibits harmful, sexually explicit materials in public schools

Brenda Palmer
self
Celina, TX

I strongly urge approval of this bill. Young people need to have a variety of wholesome , uplifting, character building, informative books available to them. There should be no room in a school library for pornographic or sexually explicit materials.

Michelle Lehn
Self
Montgomery, TX

I strongly support HB 900 because it prohibits harmful, sexually explicit materials in public schools.

Karen Zeller
Self
Conroe, TX
For

Gladys Yarbrough
Pittsburg Ave Baptist Church
Llano, TX

I do not agree that small children should be subject to pornography or be groomed for Pedophiles.

Cheryl Hinyard
Self
San Saba, TX
For HB 900

Lisa Neumann
Self
Prosper, TX

I am in support of HB 900. We must address how books are sold to public schools. Inappropriate material has been found in several schools within our district. The process is broken, and if districts do not voluntarily address this, our Representatives MUST take action.

Gay Patek
Self
Victoria, TX

Please do not allow age and content inappropriate books be purchased for our school or public libraries. These books sexualize children and are very harmful to their development. Why would anyone want these books for children to unsuspectingly run across? that is child abuse! Please vote for HB 900.

Delaina Bishop
Self/parent
Austin, TX

I oppose this bill, it takes away local control. Districts have their own policies that regulate the purchase and content in books. I trust and support our professional librarians.

Joshua Hebert, Dr.

self, physics content developer

Austin, TX

I object to HB 900, and you should too. It's tremendously inconsistent to advocate for the centrality of community standards while simultaneously centralizing those standards according to the preferences of the State legislature. I, and most of my peers, are not at all troubled by emotionally responsible depictions of sex in books available to high school and middle school students. Honestly, given the widespread availability of the most degrading sexually explicit material on the internet, I would *prefer* that my children be exposed to more emotionally responsible and thoughtful descriptions and depictions of sexual activity through literature curated by school libraries than the horrid filth that I know they can access online when not under my supervision.

I also object to the notion that I must opt-in to something rather than requiring those who wish to restrict literature to opt out. Free speech is a central value of this nation. I respect the desires of those who wish to limit their childrens' access to materials that they find offensive, but those who wish to *restrict* speech should always face the greater burden — let them opt out, as they may already do, rather than requiring those of us who prefer greater freedom to opt in.

I'm actually not opposed to the *idea* of a rating system for books purchased by K-12 libraries, as I support parents being able to set limits for their own children, but I find the implementation in this bill to be ridiculously broad. I sincerely doubt that every single book vendor is going to go to the trouble of rating every single book in its collection. It's more likely that vendors will just choose not to sell to TX schools because it's not worth the hassle, which will only raise our prices for book purchases. You need to go back to the drawing board on this and find something more workable — I suggest working with other states to develop a consistent set of guidelines so that vendors have enough market incentive to play ball. You might even get leftists like me to buy in.

Alesa Smith

Self

Fredericksburg, TX

We need to remove all sexually explicit books from our public school libraries immediately.

Liz Ccase, Ms

Self

Dallas, TX

I want to express my strong support for HB 900! I believe it is vital we protect our children from pornography disguised as educational materials. I have seen these materials and am appalled by what they are pushing on students as young as kindergarten! What they are showing high school students is completely unbelievable and as a former educator I can tell you, none of it is developmentally appropriate. Please vote yes for HB900

Annette Lucksinger

Self, writer, summer camp director

Austin, TX

As a writer, former university literature teacher, an avid reader since I was a child, and as a parent who encourages my children to learn through reading, I strongly oppose HB 900 that could censor or ban books from our school libraries. Books are a way into empathy and understanding. They allow us to get an insider view of people like -- and unlike us. I do not believe that the motivation inspiring this bill serves our students. Instead, it serves to limit the connections the future generation will make with each other. It will limit much-needed empathy and understanding in our world, our nation, and in our schools.

I am also a member of the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators who actively seek to write books with characters and themes that have been historically lacking. We want children to be able to see themselves in the stories that are told. It gives them a sense of worth and belonging when they see others like them in the stories that we all read. I worry that many of the books that would be banned under HB 900 would push those voices and characters out of the mainstream once again, to the detriment of all.

The level of government censorship being proposed puts us at risk for discrimination against the diverse history and cultures of Indigenous communities, people of color, LGBTQIA+ folks, and other underrepresented communities. I do not support it and ask that you take action to benefit the freedom of our children to read, learn, and educate themselves through reading.

Students deserve access to culturally relevant materials, equitable resources, and a safe learning environment that comes from the freedom to be themselves and to make their own choices about the books they read as they seek their own identity and answers.

Gorlyn Bronstad

Self

Sherman, TX

FOR

Philip Smith, LtCol(R)

Self

Fredericksburg, TX

All sexually explicit books should be immediately removed from our public school libraries

Deanna Fencil

Parent

Hollywood park, TX

I am for this bill

Ronald Popham

Self

FT. WORTH., TX

My father Bill Popham was a representative for MacMillan Publishing Co. during the 60's and 70's. I am very aware of how the textbooks provided to children leave impressions on children's minds. It is the responsibility of lawmakers to protect what information is poured into children's minds in their tender formative years K thru 12.

George McCullough

Conservatives of Little Elm

Little Elm, TX

I am for this bill. It is the right thing to do.

Kenneth Harward
Self
McKinney, TX

Please support HB 900 and keep our kids innocent from books and images that don't belong in school or anywhere else.

Jennifer Radford
Self
Lampasas, TX

I support HB900

Lindsay Meagher
Self Mom
San Antonio, TX

I support this bill. Children should not have access to sexualized materials in school. Let them be children!

Kelly Don Oliver
Self
Schertz, TX

I urge you to pass HB 900. I strongly support it because it is vitally important that we protect our children. This bill prohibits harmful, sexually explicit materials in public schools.
Thank you, respectfully,
Kelly Don Oliver

Bailey Wheelock
Self
Plano, TX

Parents rightfully expect their children to be protected and educated by their teachers and administrators. If a parent discovered that a pastor, counselor, or individual teacher provided sexually explicit materials to their child, that parent would accuse that individual of predation. Predation under the color of governmental authority/public health is still predation. While an argument can be made that the State has a responsibility to educate students about human reproduction and hygiene, for the public good and the health of the student in case that education is not happening at home, the state exceeds its mandate when it seeks to make available to students material that instructs them on the mechanics of sexual acts/pleasure or exists for the sole purpose of illiciting sexual arousal. As a home educator, it is already galling to receive my annual property tax bill knowing that none of the funds will go to my children directly, and in fact will go towards antithetical instruction of the children in my city, but it is what it is. To know that my money is being used to purchase sexually explicit material for these children, who we do not trust to vote or enlist or make medical decisions, but trust to make responsible sexual decisions that have lifelong effects, is a betrayal of the little trust I still have in the State. Texas is my new home, as I am a refugee from the decaying state of California. Please vote to ban these materials in our state public schools and make me experience, for the first time, what it feels like to feel pride in my state government. Be faithful to your duty to protect and educate. Vote to ban state sponsored child predation.

Ruby Stout
Self
Pilot point, TX

I support this bill to protect children from sexually explicit material in public schools.

David Watts
Self - Pilot
Forney, TX

I want to strongly express my opposition to public school libraries including books with sexually explicit content. There is no place in Texas Public schools for this kind of content.

Kum Holley, Ms
Parents-grandparents-families-taxpayers of Texas
Abbott, TX

We need the basics taught in our schools.
We need well educated children.
We do not need specialized children..”groomed” children.
Get those books out of our schools that are meant for sexualizing-& grooming our children.
THAT is a crime-can you say pedophilia??!!

Talia Cheek
Self/operations manager
Grapevine, TX

Pls choose HB900 and I support it.
This bill requires schools remove obscene material from libraries.

Jenilee Tibbs
Self homemaker
McKinney, TX

Pornographic material of any kind should NOT be in public schools. It is not age appropriate nor educational. It robs our children of their innocence and creates an unrealistic view of sex. Get it out and keep it out of public schools!

Shelly Stewart
Self
Ilano, TX

I support Hb 900 !!! Let children be children!!!!

Tammy Robichaux
Self
Conroe, TX

I strongly support HB 900 because it prohibits harmful, sexually explicit materials in public schools.

Susan Hilyard
Self homemaker
Missouri City, TX

I am for the passing of HB 900. It is criminal to put pornographic or sexualized books in any public school for any grades. It is confusing and stirring up feelings that take a way the children's childhood and innocence! We are supposed to protect our children not sexualize them. Leave them alone and let the parents protect their children from this insidious evil perpetrated by wicked people who want to groom our children and grandchildren.

Mike Covington
Southmayd Sadler Independent School System
Sherman, TX

I am in support of HB 900.

Liz Pickens, Mrs
Self
Tuscola, TX

I urge support of HB 900 because the filth that is available in our public libraries and in our schools is obscene. This material can't be viewed in mixed company and is obscene. If I showed it in the classroom I would be exempt but if I took a kid across the street and showed them I would be arrested and charged with a felony. How does this make sense? We need this bill passed because once this mess shows up in the public library it is impossible to get out even when there's a public outcry against it so please pass this bill

Joe Hilyard
Self consultant
Missouri City, TX

I'm for HB 900 and fully enforcing Title 9 section 43 of the Texas Penal Code. Public institutions and employees thereof are subject to laws of our state and the will of Texan citizens. Children are the sole responsibility of their parents not wards of the state. Historical precedent to protect the innocence of children has always been the primary function of parents and their elected law enforcement agencies.

Rik Montgomery, Mr.
Self
Frisco, TX

I vote FOR HB 900

Matthew Hilyard, Mr.
Self/Property Management
College Station, TX

I am for this bill!

cristina guerra
Self
Austin, TX

Our librarians are qualified to decide which books go in our libraries and there are already processes in place for parents to opt their children out of checking out books they deem offensive. Please say NO to HB 900. Thank you.

Linda Bilton
River Of Life Christian Fellowship
Clifton, TX

Please remove all sexually explicit and similar types of books from the elementary libraries. Thank you.

Ayden Stout
Self- Student
Pilot Point, TX

I support this bill to protect children from sexually explicit material in public schools.

Maria Rojas
Rep Patterson
Winters, TX

I support the fact that sexually explicit books should not be in our schools.

Linda Kibble
Self
Tomball, TX

strongly support HB 900 because it prohibits harmful, sexually explicit materials in public schools.

Melissa Beckett
Self
Longview, TX

Please support SB 900 - vote yes to keeping vulgar and sexually inappropriate books out of the library.

Tara Be k
Self mother
dripping Springs, TX

I'm in support of HB 900 for the content of schools to be free from pornography, child grooming, hyper sexualized content not appropriate for children's education

Elizabeth Allen-Rodriguez
Self/Retired Teacher
El paso, TX

I am a retired Texas teacher certified in English, ESOL, Spanish, and Special Education. I taught middle school, high school, and college students for about thirty years. Helping students become competent critical readers and thinkers and assisting them to discover what they enjoyed reading for pleasure was part of my mission. I hoped they would become lifelong readers. I worked closely with dedicated, competent, and enthusiastic librarians to meet the diverse needs and interests of my diverse groups of students. Our librarians are well-trained and vetted to select appropriate materials for all students. They are fully capable of evaluating age appropriate content for diverse student populations, and must continue to exercise that role for the well-being of our school libraries.

Julie Orsak
Self; Licensed Professional Counselor
Little Elm, TX

I support this bill!!! (HB900)

Catherine Sult
self
Lakeway, TX

I am FOR HB900. I want sexually explicit books removed from TX public schools.

Sheila Brown
Self
Llano, TX

Please support this bill to protect our children. I in no way want the first amendment repealed. Whatever you as an adult want to read that is between you and God. But our children should not be subjected to inappropriate adult material. Sign a Christian Lady in Llano.

Dian Sustek, Mrs

Self

Spring, TX

I strongly support HB 900 because it prohibits harmful, sexually explicit materials in public schools.

Organization is

Self

Travis Tibbs, Mr

Self

Mckinney, TX

There are some reading materials that are not good for a young and developing mind. I hear people making the statement that, "those trying to remove material are just trying to ban books." Hopefully we can all agree that a children should not experience everything under the sun or read everything under the sun. Pornography is an addiction that has gotten ahold of a lot young adults today. It extremely harmful to a young adults life and is something they care into their adult life even into their marriage. Can eventually cause marriage problems. Desensitizing children with stories of sex will only encourage this behavior. Can promotes and encourage bad behavior and thinking. We should promote self control not self care, preserving one's self for marriage not disregarding marriage other wise, seeing that sex is a gift from God to married couples not an act of self satisfaction. I would strongly encourage people to reconsider their stance for keeping such graphic material and exposing this sexually graphic stories to children. This only cause more problems for children. If you are not able to listen to reasoning, I pray that the Holy Spirit will reveal the truth.

Jose Paredes, Mr.

Self - Mechanical Engineer

Dallas, TX

Keep explicit books out of public school libraries!

Laura Dawley

N. Tx. Conservatives

Princeton, TX

Please vote Yes on bill HB900. We all have a responsibility to protect our children.

Sexually explicit books have no place in our schools.

Thank you

Russell Stout

Self- Associate Pastor

Pilot Point, TX

I support this bill to protect children from sexually explicit material in public schools.

M. Doeing
Self
McKinney, TX

Pornographic and sexually violent graphic novels and erotica have a found in schools across our nation along with other obscene material meant to, sexualize and indoctrinate our children. This is a national outrage.

We must protect our children from pornography and exploitation in our schools and libraries. Parents and guardians trust the schools and libraries to hold themselves accountable to a higher standard of protecting children from sexually exploitive, objectifying and damaging material.

Yet, news reports of children, gaining access to porn in schools and public libraries are a regular occurrence. Pornography turns once safe, community schools and libraries into a XXX space that fosters child sexual abuse, sexual assault, exhibitionism, stocking, and lewd behavior in libraries across the country.

As parents have attempted to get the books moved, they have found themselves in a battle school boards, principles, superintendents, and school librarian. It has become a litmus test of the moral depravity of those in leadership of our children.

Is this the kind of education we want our schools and libraries to promote?

Who would have imagined that we would have to fight to establish that pornography and sexual violence, promoted to children (or anyone else for that matter) is wrong?

Susie Sloan
Self retired
San Saba, TX

I AM FOR THIS!!!!

Carl Stewart
Self
Llano, TX

I do NOT approve of sexually explicit books in our schools

Melanie Hutzler
Self
San antonio, TX

For HB 900! Parent consent for Books in public schools need to be required by law!!!

Bill Osborn
Frisco
Frisco, TX

Unfortunately many Administrators ignore the placing of sexually explicit material in school libraries or have no clue as to how they got there..I strongly approve HB 900

Michelle Freeman

Self

Princeton, TX

Public school libraries (K-12) do NOT need sexually explicit books on their shelves. There are reasons why there are NC-17 warning labels on movies, tv shows, music and video games. These labels are to warn parents of explicit content, so parents can make the choice what their child sees, reads and hears. Library books have no warning labels. And since they are selected by the children without a parent present, it's very easy for kids to pick up and read inappropriate material without parental permission. If parents want their children to have access to sexually explicit books, then they should visit a retail bookstore and not a taxpayer-funded public school library. We should enlist the help of school librarians or even parental volunteers to read, vet and flag sexually explicit books before they ever make it to shelves.

Donna Fulkerson

Self

Mason, TX

Support HB 900

Nicole Cato

None/ Personal

Leander, TX

I am for.

Cynthia Smith

Self

Allen, TX

I am not a parent but a grandparent & I strongly support the removal of sexually graphic, obscene books from all school libraries in Texas!! I can't believe schools allow this garbage in the schools to corrupt young children's minds. Why sexualize our children?

Bryan Taylor

Myself

Watauga, TX

I strongly support HB900 to prevent sexually explicit and harmful materials from being given to minors and corrupting the innocence of children

Daniel Stelle

Self - Software engineer

McKinney, TX

All pornographic and obscene materials should not be allowed in Texas schools!

Michelle Vale

Self

Prosper, TX

No obscene material in libraries.

Isaac Stout

Self

Pilot point, TX

I support from this bill to protect children from sexually explicit material in public schools.

Judah Farmer
Self
Fredericksburg, TX

We need to get rid of the sexually explicit books in the public schools and keep them out.

Sonia Angobaldo
Parent
Plano, TX

I support the bill HB 900

Connie Marshall
Mother
Lucas, TX

No excuse for pornography in books at school

Michael Gage
Republican
Paradise, TX

This needs to pass

Leta Mekker
Self/pharmacy technician
Allen, TX

For!!! Get these filthy, pornographic, over sexualized books out of school libraries! Stop giving contracts to companies who want to push this on our kids.

Leigh Powers
Self/teacher
Conroe, TX

I am writing in opposition to this bill. I trust our district librarians to follow state library guidelines and the guidelines set forth by our district. School librarians are highly trained professionals who do not need this level of micromanagement. Please do not bring this bill to the house floor.

Dionne Livingston
Self/retired
The Woodlands, TX

I support bill HB 900

Craig Rowland
Self
Abilene, TX

Please support HB 900

Stephen E. Broden, Pastor
Fair Park Bible Church
Desoto, TX

Our children are vulnerable to manipulation and misinformation about sexuality. Parents should be the source of sexual education not those who don't share values of the home

Susan Perez, Ms.
Citizens for Education Reform
Lubbock, TX

I support HB 900. School and Public Libraries should not have sexually explicit material especially in the children's section. We must protect the innocence of our children.

Kathy Tribble
Self
Llano, TX

I support HB 900

Joseph Evenson
Self- Medical Benefit Administrator
Houston, TX

I approve of, and strongly support HB 900, for prohibiting harmful, explicit, and inappropriate material in public schools. Thank you.

Trista Parks
My Texan Self
Cedar Park, TX

Please vote FOR HB 900. Most people are NOT aware of the depth and amount of sexual content in the school. Most people think "oh it can't be that bad". IT IS THAT BAD. I have a binder full of parent testimonies, teacher testimonies, and examples of material that are so vulgar, an individual can go to jail for showing it to a child. Our children currently have NO GUARDRAILS to protect them from exposure and there are NO CONSEQUENCES for adults that expose children to these things (due to the current Obscenity Exemption). Currently NO ONE is accountable. This bill will establish what is appropriate and consequences for those that make the choice to expose children to these inappropriate materials. Please support HB 900 and protect Texas Children. Thank you.

Brandon Johnson, Man
Self - self
Mineral Wells, TX

I am FOR the bill

Priscilla Nava
Self
El Paso, TX

I support HB900

Melissa Foil
Self/ rancher
San Saba, TX

I vote for this bill.

Kathy Woolston

Parent

Frisco, TX

I strongly support HB900 to take the sexually explicit books out of school libraries. What we have seen in the past 2 years is disturbing. We need to protect our children from materials they couldn't purchase / rent underage. And since we have seen a lack of urgency and policy at the school district level we need to have a law that will protect our children from the exposure to the graphic materials. I am a born and raise Texan and cannot believe this is happening in our great state of Texas!!

Ruth Buchanan

Self

McKinney, TX

Books provided to students in any public school setting should NOT contain pornography or any form of explicit or graphic sexual content. That is not material that any minor NEEDS to be educated on from the school system. They have access to that material from many sources but it is NOT within the scope of public education. As a voting Texas citizen, I urge our representatives to vote to remove this type of material from the public school libraries & curriculum.

David Foil

Self/rancher

San Saba, TX

I vote for this bill.

Geri Patterson

Self

Deer Park, TX

I strongly support HB 900 because it prohibits harmful, sexually explicit materials in public schools.

Chris Thompson

Conservative Values

Wylie, TX

I'm FOR Bill 900 to regulate what children are exposed to in educational institutions. I'm for decency and morality for future generations.

Sheila King

Self

Sugar Land, TX

I support HB 900. We need to protect our children from books with pornographic materials in our Public School Libraries. We need to hold the sellers of those books to the public schools accountable.

Elise Thompson

Conservative values

Wylie, TX

I am For this bill to place moral limitations on what children read including incest, rape, sodomy, sex with a minor and other indecent reading material and picture images in ISD libraries.

Edna Core
self-Realtor ReMax of Abilene
Abilene, TX

school books should educate students not indoctrinate students on latest wok garbage. an educated student can then draw their own conclusions.

Katie Doggendorf
Self
San Antonio, TX

I am FOR HB900. I want sexually explicit books removed from TX public schools.

Carmen Ramos
Self
Plano, TX

I support HB 900

Becky Peevey
My child
Cedar Park, TX

Dear Representatives:

I implore you to support HB 900 to remove sexually explicit material from public schools.

To be clear this is NOT BOOK BANNING. HB 900 is strictly focused on addressing protecting children from sexually explicit materials. This should NOT be a controversial issue. HB 900 is a clear avenue to help bring some common sense guardrails to help guide those making material and content decisions in a school setting with minors.

Respectfully,
Becky Peevey

Luis Melendez
Self
McKinney, TX

All phonographic and obscene material should be removed from all public school library in Texas

Francisco Salazar
Self
Hutto, TX

As an educator, I strongly support HB 900 because it prohibits harmful, sexually explicit materials in public schools. There is no need for our youth, attending public schools to have access to this type of material.

Shandon Camarillo-Whitson
Self employed
LLANO, TX

I support this bill!

Virginia Klaren
Myself
Texas City, TX

Librarians are well educated and trained to know the needs of their students. There's absolutely no reason "small" government minded people need to interject themselves into schools.

There's been no evidence, from any source, that any librarian from any school—let alone all librarians from all schools—have some how injured or harmed in anyway our children.

Librarians are ethical and caring. There's been no evidence produced to show how allowing a librarian to do his/ her job requires restrictions governed by this bill.

Indeed. Your efforts here are misplaced. If you've got a valid concern about youth, why not support schools with more funding? Why not increase the availability for CHIP?

Please stop ignoring real issues. Ignore the dog whistle. Do your job.

Allan Toole
Self
Dallas, TX

I am FOR HB 900.

Cheryl Stalinsky, Mrs.
Self
Weston Lakes, TX

Salacious books should not be allowed in public schools.

Judith Ferrari
Self, Retired
Bulverde, TX

NO! This bill is redundant. Parents already have the right to refuse books for their child, and librarians are professionals devoted to helping students learn about themselves and their world. What kind of legacy are we leaving them? How will they have perspective and problem solving skills if they are not fully informed? Please vote NO. Thank you, Judith Ferrari

Phil Todd, Me
Self
Justin, TX

Please stop the selling of explicit books to school libraries

Summer Broome
Parents
San Antonio, TX

Yes, I am FOR this bill! Please support parents and vote yes on HB 900

Stacy Viquez
Self
San Antonio, TX

For

Alma Aviña, Mrs
Self
Horizon City, TX
I support HB900

Helen Preston, Mrs.
Self/ artist
Abilene, TX

Please vote FOR HB 900!

Jennifer Roberts
Texas Resident
Frisco, TX

Children in public school are under 18 years of age and should not be exposed to pornographic literature.

Brandi Burkman
self, provider network management
Leander, TX

I am a parent in Leander ISD. Almost two years ago, my 16 yr-old son brought home Lawn Boy from his ELA classroom, labeled as "classroom library" which included several pages of two 10-yr old boys engaged in oral sex at a church camp. My son inspected the book, read the back cover, flipped through pages to try to avoid inappropriate material. He had been deceived. He did not want to access sexually explicit material, especially involving child sex. He had a 10-yr old little sister, which the Tooth Fairy and Santa still visited. At the next school board meeting, I read quotes from the book while my son held posters with the quotes because once a child reads this material, they cannot unsee this. I submitted a sexual harassment grievance to Leander ISD which didn't even make it to Level I because the Title IX coordinator responded that my grievance was being closed since it didn't meet the definition and I could file under the instructional materials grievance. I sent this as a grievance to TEA and after several months received a response referencing the new library policy TEA had suggested to districts, which Leander ISD never even considered. I filed a police report the evening I spoke at the school board meeting, but the Williamson County DA would not pursue due to the education exception in the obscenity penal code, although a neighbor would have gone to jail had they handed the book to my minor. Additionally, due to libraries and "classroom libraries" being self-select, should this not disqualify these selections from the education exception? The video of me reading went viral and kept getting removed from online platforms due to the language. I recently provided an interview to the Washington Post who declined to quote the book as well. There is no doubt this content is obscene, and minors would not be able to access this content at a movie theater or purchase a magazine at a store. Pornography is never age appropriate and limiting children's access to harmful material is not book banning. My children cannot access their right to a free public education without potentially subjecting themselves to sexually explicit content. My sophomore daughter now takes ELA through online Texas Tech schooling as I asserted my parental rights for religious and moral beliefs. I pulled my 10-yr old daughter from public school to home school and she is currently on waitlists >75 for the local charter schools due to so many parents seeking to protect their children from the sexually explicit and Marxist curriculum Leander ISD has adopted. It is a really sad day in Texas that HB 900 is even needed because district administrators and book vendors won't just do the right thing and remove this harmful material from our classes. I hope that HB 900 will also apply to "classroom library" and digital catalogs, such as Sora, that Follett provides. Thank you Rep Patterson. This is a start after last July, the TEA commissioner admitted porn was in our classrooms.

Kathleen Cummings
Self
Plano, TX

It should be clear that books should be safe for children to read. Pornographic books are not suitable for children. Keep them out of schools.

Edriene Wallace
Self
Weatherford, TX
Support for.

Nikki Henrichsen
Self/Homemaker
Sugar Land, TX

I strongly support HB 900. Our children and minors must be protected from pornographic materials and books in our schools, public school libraries, and hold booksellers accountable.

Bryan Fement
Self
Arthur City, TX
FOR!!

Kelly Holland, Mrs
Self
Little elm, TX

I support this bill and strongly back its purpose. Inappropriate literature, especially sexual in nature should not be in our school libraries. Children under the age of 18 should not be exposed to such vulgarity.

Bobby Sanchez
Self, driver
Rockwall, TX

Children should never have access to sexually inappropriate material in libraries or the classroom. Parents want schools teaching their children reading, writing and math. Parents have the right to guide their children on social values and sexuality, not schools. Please pass the bill! Most parents are too busy to testify or respond but they are behind this bill.

Alexandra North
Self
Lewisville, TX

Please remove pornographic materials from schools

Christina Haley
self
Round Rock, TX

Trust trained librarians to make good choices for their schools. Parents have always had the ability to restrict their child from accessing specific books. There are already processes in place to assess the value of specific books vs any questionable content. Kids need to see representation of themselves and their families in what they read. If a parent doesn't want their child to access a book, they can talk to the librarian.

Donald Dail
Sel
Mckinney, TX
For

Ronnie Jones
Denton County Republican Party
Flower Mound, TX

This bill needs to go to the House of Representatives for a vote. This bill is extremely important to protect our children across the state of Texas.

Rhiannon Valle
Self
Crossroads, TX

Please remove all books with pornographic, explicit materials from our public school libraries. Our children should not have access to graphic material. Parents have every right to safeguard and protect their children from looking at images that might have long term psychological effects on them. Public schools main focus should be purely Mathematics, History, English Language Arts & Science. Teaching any form of Sexual education should be left up to parents, not public schools. Public schools have overstepped their boundaries and have disregarded parental rights in regards to sexual education. Our children deserve to be protected not preyed upon. They deserve an actual childhood, free from adults trying to teach them about sex. Our children deserve better. They have a right to a sex free childhood!

Larissa Mears
Self
Leander, TX

I support this bill. No more inappropriate books in our schools. This should be automatic. Why would an 11 y/o have access to a book that suggests going to a porn shop for sex advice? Not only do these books need to be removed physically they also need to be removed electronically.

Julie Janzer, Mrs
Self
Houston, TX

I support HB 900. Allow children to be children and not begin sexualization in the grade schools. It is shameful that we even have to fight for this bill. More parents are letting their voices be heard. Parents should be the determining factor in a child's education .

Rachel McCreary-Fielder
self
Georgetown, TX

The state should not be legislating what books are appropriate. That should be left up to the highly educated and trained librarians. This bill is an embarrassment.

Duane Wood, Tax payer
ROCKINMDRANCH
San Saba, TX

Please obey GODS WISHES AND pass this bill.Our future will be decided by what you do.

Phil Bohart
Self, business owner, licensed professional counselor
Dallas, TX

Pornography has no place in our public school libraries.

Brazos Fielder
Self
Georgetown, TX

I am opposed to banning books - let's leave book selection to teachers and librarians!

Diana Herren
Self
McKinney, TX

Please please please protect the innocence of our greatest resource..our beautiful children. Keep the pornography out of the school libraries. Please

Michelle Pique
Self
Copper Canyon, TX

Sexually inappropriate books should not be in our school libraries. Thank you for voting to pass this bill

Jennifer White, Dr
True Texas project
Frisco, TX

This should not even be a topic up for debate.
They should be NO Sexually explicit books in schools or school libraries.

I urge you to vote yes and settle this issue for good.

Joey Riss
Parent
Frisco, TX

All pornographic and obscene materials should be removed from all public school libraries in Texas!

Christopher Corbett
Corbett Strategic Communications
Flower Mound, TX

This bill is ESSENTIAL for the future of Texas and Texas families. Please PASS IT out of committee . . . out of Calendars. . . . and on the FLOOR. I and others are watching every vote. Thank you, Rep. Patterson.

Deborah Arnett

Self, retired counselor

Dallas, TX

My name is Deborah Arnett and I am a Texas resident of 29 years. My educational background includes a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology from San Francisco State University and a Master of Arts in Counseling from Dallas Baptist University. My work history includes teaching in a Montessori preschool, teaching 4th to 9th grade as a substitute teacher, working as a social worker in the child protective services and child care licensing departments for the State of Hawaii and in two Texas mental hospitals and my own private practice. As a social worker in Hawaii I taught parenting classes through the University of Hawaii for parents whose children had been removed for foster care. My husband and I have been foster parents for 11 children and have adopted 2 children after a thorough home study. At no time was I taught that children should be allowed to read or told to read books that were sexually explicit, at any age as a minor. Or that minors should be allowed materials or provided instruction that before their bodies matured and their brains developed would tell them they were formed incorrectly sexually or biologically. At no time were any of my instructors or professional coworkers suggesting that minors “knew” they were trans or LGBTQ... particularly at elementary aged as is now the trend. And none of these professionals thought minors should be allowed to read smut or graphic sexual “how to” materials, or “sexual feelings” literature, much less have open discussions in a classroom about multiple gender options beyond the two biology confirms.

Please do not allow books that suggest sexual proclivity, sexual deviance or that accept sexual transformation for children/minors in public schools or public libraries. Children do not begin to seriously think hypothetically (if this then what) until after age 7 and do not become masters at this as minors.

We are all in charge of providing age and stage developmentally appropriate literature and instruction, everywhere in the public. Public Schools and libraries who provide inappropriate materials to minors should be reported, fined and censored.

Nicole Johnson

Self

Princeton, TX

Remove pornographic books from schools and any other inappropriate books that do not belong in schools including transgender, race theory etc

Amelia Borne

Self. Stay at home mom of three elementary children.

Dallas, TX

Pornographic and obscene books should not be allowed in schools, libraries or classrooms and should be removed from all Texas public schools.

Myra Corbett

Self

Blanco, TX

Why is this sexualization and wrecking of our children's school books and learning experience being allowed and overlooked? I demand that it be immediately addressed and STOPPED- taken off the shelves!!! What manner of people are you that you would ignore this or overlook it!!!! If you allow this- I would judge that all of those that would turn a blind eye be arrested for child abuse.

There is no argument that would justify sexually explicit books to be in any way part of any school library or curriculum. Do not be without conscience. Vote against this or forever be damned.

Emily Hlavinka

Self Concerned parent

San Antonio, TX

I'm for HB900. Please please let's trash the R and X rated books. Please!!

Brandon Broome, Dr.

Texas parents
San Antonio, TX

This HB 900 has my full support! Parents and students need you to stand up and support them! Get the R and X rated books out of the schools!

Carter Brought
Self, retired, widower
Whitney, TX

It is time that the parents take authority over what is presented to their children. Not some self appointed group or elected that have their own self interest and agenda regardless the moral cost to our children.

Keisha Gassiott
Self
Dallas, TX

All pornographic and obscene materials should be removed from all public school libraries in Texas!

Jessica Cathey
Self
Austin, TX

I oppose book bans. This sort of repression is wildly unhealthy for children's mental health. I grew up in a Christian School and felt absolutely awful about myself for simply being a girl who thought about sex. I didn't noticeably recover from this until my mid 30s; my upbringing still hurts me. Please don't do this. It doesn't change who people will be, just how they feel about themselves and likely the amount of coping, therapy, and drugs they'll end up on.

Evelyn Melendez
Self
McKinney, TX

All pornographic and obscene materials should be removed from all public school libraries in Texas!"

Luis Melendez
Self
Farmersbranch, TX

All pornographic and obscene materials should be removed from all public school libraries in Texas!"

Daiqing Yuan, Dr
Abilene Bible Church
Abilene, TX

It is our duty to protect our children. The schools are supposed to teach abilities, not immoralities.

Kelly Lowery
Self
Llano, TX
FOR

Rene Hernandez

Self

Celina, TX

All pornographic and obscene materials should be removed from all public school libraries in Texas!

Zachariah Hunt

Self

Van Alstyne, TX

I am in favor of this bill; we do not need sexually explicit as well as 'woke' material in the schools.

Diana Matos

Self

McKinney, TX

<https://comments.house.texas.gov/home?c=c400>

All pornographic and obscene materials should be removed from all public school libraries in Texas!"

Joe Brown

Self

Sherman, TX

Please protect children and support this bill.

Julie Mullen

Self

Cedar Park, TX

Please help keep inappropriate materials out of our classrooms. Thank you.

Abigail Dunagan

Self

Dallas, TX

All pornographic and obscene materials should be removed from all public school libraries in Texas!

James Crews, Mr

Self

Sadlet, TX

Please stop our children from being provided explicit sexual material

Julie Hendrix

Self

Argyle, TX

Protect our children!

Michael Matos, Mr.

Self

McKinney, TX

All pornographic and obscene materials should be removed from all public school libraries in Texas!"

Debra Havranek

NA

Allen, TX

Please pass this bill.

Lauri Armstrong

Self

Van Alstyne, TX

Please remove the inappropriate sexually explicit books from the public schools. I am FOR the removal of these inappropriate books from public schools

John Wertz, Mr.

Self - Retired

Spring, TX

FOR

Bridget Crumbaugh

Self/ Account Representative

Celina, TX

Against explicit books in schools

Ashley Pierce

Self

Cedar Park, TX

FOR

Eva Hernandez

self

Celina, TX

All pornographic and obscene materials should be removed from all public school libraries in Texas.

Linda Lorber

Self

Van alstyne, TX

all pornographic an obscene materials should be removed from all public school libraries.

Annette LaGrasy

Self

Whitesboro, TX

For

Tracey Thomas

Self —retired teacher

San saba, TX

Please vote FOR this!!! Our children need to be protected better!

DONELLE WILSON

Self homemaker

Whitesboro, TX

FOR

Deborah Simmons

self

Austin, TX

Thank you to Representative Patterson for your advocacy on this important issue and for the filing of this comprehensive bill that includes parental access to card catalog, standards for the purchase of library materials, agency review, and required reviews of the library inventory. Please pass this bill.

Meagan Baker, Mrs.

Self- stay at home mom

Mckinney, TX

I believe there should be zero pornographic images available to children. Please remove all materials from our school's permanently!

Stacey Ricks, Ms.

Self

Spring, TX

What I have found legislators yammering on about of late is parent choice. I agree that Parents should have choices and input as to what their child is reading. Parents already have that. My eldest was reading at a high school level in the third grade. If she was interested in reading something of her reading capabilities, I read it first to determine if it were age appropriate. I allowed things and didn't allow things. That is a parent's job. By limiting the options of what is or isn't included in a public school library, parents lose the autonomy and control they are screaming for. As soon as someone else is in control of the decisions you can and cannot make, you know longer have control. The idea to regulate the choices is counterintuitive in all things related to public school issues currently in the state legislature.

Karon McDowell

Self

Temple, TX

For.

Penny Dayton

Self, homemaker

Nocona, TX

We need HB 900 to PASS in order to protect our precious children. Please vote yes!

Brett Wilie

self, school teacher

Waxahachie, TX

I am writing to voice my support FOR HB 900. It is important to me to protect TX children from sexually explicit books in schools.

Molly Goodson, Mrs.
Concerned Christian Citizens
Bonham, TX

I support HB 900 in hopes to protect kids from books that sexualize children!

Joe Goodson
Concerned Christian Citizens
Bonham, TX

FOR HB900!!! PROTECT OUR CHILDREN FROM ALL FORMS OF SEXUALIZATION!!!

Lisa Wien, Mrs
Self
Plano, TX

I am in support of HB 900. Sexually explicit books should be removed and prohibited in TX public school libraries to protect against the sexualization of children. They do not serve in the best interest of children and I find it disturbing that these are made available in the TX public school libraries.

Ky Yarborough
Self Physician Assistant
Spicewood, TX

I am for HB 900. I want sexually explicit books removed from TX public schools.

Brooks McKenzie, Dr.
Self
Clarksville, TX

Support for this bill should be unanimous and bipartisan, as the content of some of the books found within (and promoted in some) our schools would have the common individual arrested for sex crimes against children of given to a child on the street. Yet, somehow, these same books are in our schools. Our schools are not equipped to do much of what they are tasked with, and certainly are not qualified to interfere with morality, sexuality, ethics or morals. Parents are the source for the aforementioned, and most parents don't drop their kids off at the porn store for education, so maybe the schools need to stop making porn available to children. Just a simple idea from a simple man. I support Patterson's HB900.

David Newsome
Self
Little River Academy, TX

I support HB 900. We have a responsibility to protect our children!

Art Hawinson
self
HORSESHOE BAY, TX

I strongly approve and support HB900 protecting our children from sexual indoctrination of any and all sorts. These issues belong with the family.

Lauren Jones
Self
San Antonio, TX

I support HB900

Jackie Gessner
Self
La Marque, TX
I support hb900

BettyJo Henderson
Self
Llano, TX
FOR

Zdenka Bucci
Self
Murphy, TX

I vote for HB 900 and ask to remove ALL the books and curriculum materials from taxpayer-funded school libraries and classrooms - where pedophilia and explicit sexual acts and violence were discovered.

Pamela Weiss
Self
Wylie, TX

All pornographic and obscene materials should be removed from all public school libraries in Texas.

Deborah Calvin
Self
Plano, TX

I support this bill. Books with sexually explicit content should not be included in Texas school libraries. This type material should be provided by parents at the appropriate time in their development, and in some cases not at all.

Amy Egan
Self
Allen, TX

Please make sure that only age appropriate books are provided to school libraries and that no books with sexually explicit or pornographic material are included. School should not a place for children or teens to be sexualized.

Kathy Parrish, Office Manager
Self
Carrollton, TX

I do not agree with pornographic material being available to our children in school. I want our children to learn the basics of reading, writing, and arithmetic, which is what I paid for with my taxes.

kelli bland
Self, Multi-disciplinary artist
Austin, TX

I am against the passing of this bill. Censorship is wrong and against the values of this state and our country. This bill is abominable.

Claudia O'Neill

self

McKinney, TX

HB 900 has to be passed. The removal of pornographic books from Schools is a must. I AM 100% FOR HB 900 BY PATTERSON!! All pornographic and obscene materials should and must be removed from all public school (and private) libraries in Texas!!. The school system should not be teaching our children this. You are adding fuel to ALL THE EVIL IN THE WORLD. THINK ABOUT THE HUMAN TRAFFICKING, PEDOPHILES, OR ANYONE WITH A PSYCHOSECUAL DISORDER. The safety of our children must foremost in your minds. They are the future of this country. You MUST BACK HB 900!!

Thomas Couch

Self

McKinney, TX

Pornographic literature has no place in our school system. Anything related to sexual content should be left to the parents to discuss with their children.

Ashley Kraussman

Self -educator

San Antonio, TX

I support HB 900 getting the X and R rated books out of public schools.

Chrissy Cross, Dr.

Parent of public school kids

Nacogdoches, TX

This is a huge waste of time. Every child has a phone with access to pornhub. Are you going to regulate twitter, pornhub, TikTok, instagram, Snapchat, texts? I am sure you have looked at many a woman's boobs online, some of which were under 18 and you didn't know. You cannot regulate what kids consume online.

Megan Swiger

Self

San Antonio, TX

Need to get X and R rated books out of schools

Denise Blackburn

Self

Plano, TX

It's common sense

Ouida Foster

Myself

Abilene, TX

I strongly support this bill, We need to protect the innocence of our children.

Vicky Almazan

Self

Melissa, TX

No pornographic books!!!

Jessica Brussel

Self-teacher

Bulverde, TX

I support HB 900! I want the R and X rated books out of the schools now!

Nicole Poage, Counselor

Self

Marble Falls, TX

Please keep our libraries free of unwholesome books that are bad for kids.

Crescenda Uhles

Self, Genetic Counselor

Fort Worth, TX

I am, in general, against regulation except for in cases where people can physically harm themselves. As that's unlikely with books, what contents a public school library contains is best left up to the trained librarians who know their student-base and their literary needs most.

Natalie Couch

Self

Mckinney, TX

Please remove all pornographic and all obscene material from all public school libraries- thank you!!

Our kids deserve to be protected

Melissa Fryzel

Self

Seguin, TX

I am a survivor of childhood sexual abuse. My perpetrator used books to groom me, by normalizing sex in my immature mind, prior to abusing me for a decade.

Texas is better than this. Please vote to regulate the books in our schools. Our children's future safety depends on it.

Austyn Smart

Self

Bulverde, TX

I support HB 900. I want the R and X rated books out of the school!

sharon Goodwin

Yourself

Fort Worth, TX

Please support this bill

Debbi Dye

Self

Montgomery, TX

I highly support HB 900 because it prohibits harmful sexually explicit materials in our public schools!

Christine Puls
My family
garden Ridge, TX

I support HB 900! I want the R and X rated books out of the schools now

Casandra Valencia
Self
McKinney, TX

All pornographic and obscene materials should be removed from all public school libraries in Texas!!!

Robert Goodwin
Self/Bonder A at Bell helicopter
FORT WORTH, TX

Please support this Bill.

Mandy Carter
Self
San Antonio, TX

I support the HB 900 and want all the R and X rated books out of schools now!

Sheryl Martin
Self /personal shopper
Harker Heights, TX

I support HB 900 and want the R and X Rated books out of our schools NOW!

Stephanie Phillips
Self
Temple, TX

I support HB 900. I want the R and X rated books out of the schools now.

Kelly Pickens
Self/homemaker
Corinth, TX

No sexually explicit books should be in any school library. Many of these books are graphic and inappropriate for most minors. Literature should be available only to students taking a class that teaches this topic and strictly from a biology perspective. This is crazy that we need a bill for this.

Judy King, Mrs
Self Retired
Victoria, TX

I strongly agree with HB900. It's time for those who are in authority and the general public to speak up, fight for what is right and good and protect our children.

Megan Thurman

Self

Llano, TX

I support HB 900

Barbara Gilbertson

Self

Belton, TX

Please keep our libraries free of pornographic material.

Susan Smart

Self

Bulverde, TX

I support HB900

Kathleen Markoff

Self

McKinney, TX

We need to protect our children from inappropriate books in our school libraries. Some of these are pornographic and should not be available in schools. Nor should our taxes be used to purchase such books. There are plenty of good books that can be purchased. Thank you for your time and for working to keep our kids safe.

Sandy Watts

Self-customer service

Frisco, TX

Please remove and keep books that contain sexual content from our school kids.

Joseph Cruz, Precinct Chair

Self NYPD Rtd.

Princeton, TX

I am sending this in support of HB 900. The educationally unnecessary inclusion of sexually explicit materials, including literature, must be stopped immediately. There is simply no justification for making such material available to children in our public schools - especially without parental knowledge or consent. Sexualization of children is not a 1st Amendment issue, but an obvious tool used to undermine parental authority and weaken future generations of this country to favor those that would see it fall.

Laina Murray

Self

San Saba, TX

For

Anesa Biviano

Self

San Antonio, TX

I do not want these in our children's libraries

Sonja Tripodi-Peterson

Self

Frisco, TX

Definitely FOR this bill to be passed to protect our children from inappropriate sexually explicitly books offered in school libraries. Let's return to teaching the skills and knowledge that will improve the lives and dedication to American citizenship that we once valued in our schools.

Julie Larkey, Mrs

True Texas project / self wellness industry

Denton, TX

My family & friends are so against porn, illustrations, extremely bad selections of words, suggestive ideas that make our children believe sexual decisions are a smart & popular thing for them to be involved in. Our schools & books are encouraging evilness & normalizing racism, bullying & they are losing their innocence & parental respect, credibility & support from those that raise them. I'm sickened by what's happening in our schools & library's please vote against. We beg u to help our children. We pray for u & your families to see the truth & protect our children. There are laws that aren't being enforced. & they should be kept out until investigated as concerned citizens & care about our children's wellbeing. Where is the concentrating on reading writing & arithmetic! Cleanliness, kindness ?

Kinsey Johnson

Self pre k teacher

Spring branch, TX

"I support HB 900! I want the R and X rated books out of the schools now"

Donna Mel

Self

Allen, TX

All pornographic and obscene materials should be removed from all public school libraries in Texas!

Radonna Spies

Self

Fredericksburg, TX

I was shocked to know there are many obscene and disturbing books in my hometown of Fredericksburg. I've read the provided excerpts, and I'm appalled. Many in my community have stepped up to fight this battle with the school and through the school board, but the board is obviously worried about legal challenges and caved. The parents who speak out have been slandered - primarily by our local newspaper. The liberal opponents have learned to manipulate the system and this SYSTEM HAS GOT TO CHANGE. HB900 is a good backbone - but needs more "teeth".

Thank you for your time

Donna Hinsley

Self. Sub teacher

Temple, TX

I want the R and x rated books out of the schools !!!

Kristia Leyendecker

Self

Flower Mound, TX

I would like to express my dismay at any legislation the usurps local control of books within schools away from school districts and places it into the hands of the state government. Local school districts should work within their communities to determine the appropriateness of certain books at certain ages. Not all members of this state agree with the select few who find it necessary to ban books because of fear. Placing the responsibility for determining what books are allowed in a school and which are not usurps local authority and oversteps the bounds of state government.

Keely Cano

Self

Austin, TX

“I strongly support HB 900 because it prohibits harmful, sexually explicit materials in public schools.”

Melissa Huggins, Mrs.

Self

Bulverde, TX

I support HB 900, and I want X and R rated book out of schools.

Neely Hamilton

Self

Bulverde, TX

I support HB 900! I want R and X rated books out of schools now

Michael Walton, Precinct 601 Chairman

Self, retired

Spring, TX

I strongly support HB 900 because it prohibits harmful, sexually explicit materials in public schools.
Please protect our kids from Deviant sexual grooming, gender confusion policies and Marxist indoctrination!

Tara Songey

Parent

New Braunfels, TX

I support HB900 and want r rated books out of school.

Jenifer Moore

Self

Gunter, TX

ALL pornographic and obscene books and materials should be removed from and not allowed in all Texas school libraries.
Protect our children!

Harley Belew

Myself

Kerrville, TX

I support this bill

Bridget Zook
Self
Bulverde, TX

I fully support HB 900 to get and keep x rated books out of our public libraries.

Michele Everill, Mrs
Self
Celina, TX

All pornographic and obscene materials should be removed from all public school libraries in Texas!?

kelly vondrehle
self, realtor
the hills, TX

I am FOR HB900. I want sexually explicit books removed from TX public schools.

Brandy Belew
Self
Kerrville, TX

I give my full support to HB900!

John Ballard
self - retired
Fort Hood, TX

I strongly support HB 900 simply for the fact that such explicit books that can't even be read in front of a school board in a public forum MOST certainly cannot be read by children. This is a matter of common sense and common decency.

Roger Wheelock
Greater Than I Ministries (GTI)
MCKINNEY, TX

I strongly support the removal of sexually graphic, obscene books from all school libraries in Texas!! These wouldn't be allowed on anywhere near minors on the street or on TV. Why is it happening in public schools?

Lauren Gerchman
Self -mom
Spring Branch, TX

I support HB900

Rhonda Caldwell
None
Richardson, TX

ALL pornographic and obscene materials should be REMOVED from all public school libraries in Texas!

Wanda Wine

Self

Melissa, TX

All pornographic and obscene books should not be allowed in any public school library

Stephanie Joseph

Self

Dallas, TX

All pornographic and obscene materials should be removed from all public school libraries in Texas. These have no place in schools.

Nell Brindley, Mrs.

Self/Retired Teacher

Temple, TX

I fully support HB 900 & urge everyone to vote for it especially my Rep. Hugh Shine, Temple, TX.

Judy Sims

Self and my grandchildren

Waco, TX

Please keep pornographic material out of our schools. Public schools shouldn't allow our students to have access to explicit materials. They should be teaching them, math, science, English and history

Jill Cardon

Parents

San Antonio, TX

As a parent I support HB 900. Explicit R and X rated books need to be removed from our school libraries. Parents and children needed to be represented and protected.

Dayna Swain

Self

Kyle, TX

We all need to be more aware and selective as to what our children are given. Children shouldn't be reading sexual advice books in school, or transgender garbage. If someone chooses as adult to do something with their gender so be it, BUT NOT CHILDREN

Courtney Pessa

Self, Licensed Professional Counselor, MA

San Antonio, TX

Dear Education Committee Representatives,

I am PRO HB 900.

I have a Masters in Community Counseling. I'm currently a Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC) in the State of Texas.

I write to you today with grave concern regarding sexually explicit reading material I've been made aware of in our Texas public schools.

In all my years of treating adolescents and studying child and adolescent development, I've never come across a topic as nefarious as this one. What's more confounding is that my own school district will not heed my warnings that this content is taking our children down a very dark path. I'm astonished that my school board will not take into consideration the damage this is causing to young, developing brains. I've stood before my board, giving my expert opinion but to no avail.

Children are simply too immature to understand topics that are adult and sexual in nature. Their focus is simply to nurture 'who' they are becoming and how to appropriately relate to their peers. Sexuality has no space in this learning stage.

I want to convey that I'm not a proponent of "book banning"; however, I am a proponent of age-appropriateness. As adults, we need to nurture trust in our young ones and not confusion by showing them sexually graphic images they don't understand.

Currently, offering sexually explicit books in public school libraries is forcing parents to seek education elsewhere—School Choice.

If HB 900 is not passed, the names of those who voted FOR sexually explicit material to remain in our schools will be exposed. Parents are watching.

FOR HB 900.

Robert Bucci

Self

Murphy, TX

I am FOR HB 900, urging removal and regulation of books and other materials containing pornography and/or pedophilia from public school libraries.

Robin Laughlin, Mrs.

self

princeton, TX

If school libraries are not regulated then parents loss the say of what they want their child exposed to. All students no mater the age is allowed to check out books at their school library. As a teacher myself I have been appalled at some of the things my students check out from the library. It is not just prostatic but it has topics like suicide and murdering of young children. These are not subjects that should be read by fourth graders without some kind of topic guidance. If you do not see a problem with this maybe you should take your closest five -10 year old and walk around with them and look through their eyes. It is our job to guard their hearts, eyes, and minds! Let them be innocent as long as we can keep them there. School is supposed to be a safe place where they are protected from all of the damage the world is doing. Let's keep schools a place of refuge and peace, where a student will be safe and learn to be a kind, smart, and caring participant of our community. They can not do that if all of the pornography and trauma of the world is pushed on their face everyday!

Diana Cataneso

Self

Round Rock, TX

As a parent and teacher I STRONGLY support regulating the inclusion of sexually explicit, morally deficit, and age inappropriate books available to check out or purchase in public school libraries.

Heather Lowe, Nonprofit consultant and parent

Self

Arlington, TX

I support Texas school librarians who are highly trained professional educators that select books based on local policies, approved by our school board. I trust school librarians, not out-of-state vendors, to determine if content in books is appropriate. And parents, not the state, are responsible for determining what their children read.

Catherine Walker

Self

Austin, TX

I want sexually explicit books removed from Texas public schools.

Thomas Pessa

Self. Retired.

San Antonio, TX

I hereby declare my support for this bill.

Brian Wine

Self

Melissa, TX

Protect our children

Cheryl Cornelius

Self

San Antonio, TX

I support this bill.

Elizabeth Steele

self --school social worker

HOUSTON, TX

HB 900--is a ridiculous bill that feeds the narrative that librarians can't be trusted to do their jobs. We already have state library standards developed by the TX State Library Commission and approved by the State Board of Education in 2018. Yet this proposed law would require new standards and require lists of newly acquired library books be sent to the TX Education Agency--more work, more micromanagement, for no purpose. We do not need this law; we trust trained librarians to select books. Instead, please be focus on the REAL issues--raising the basic allotment; improving school safety; increasing compensation for teachers & staff; and ensuring students and teachers have mental health supports!

Sue McLain

Self

Princeton, TX

Prohibit pornographic materials from school libraries!

Nichole Chaput

Self/RN

League City, TX

I Strongly support HB900! Let kids be kids, stop the sexualization of our kids!

Kathy Fogle
Self
CROCKETT, TX

HB 900 I am strongly against having sexually explicit books or any kind of reading material or pictures in school libraries. It is a disgrace to have such for our children to witness and read. What has happened to our society that we would have to vote against such a thing. It should never have been allowed in the first place.

Ivett Jeffries
Sekf
Lavon, TX
Support it

Larry Shoemaker
self
Collinscille, TX

Please support HB900 , Pass it out of committee.

Gwendolyn Frost
Self
Powderly, TX

All pornographic and obscene materials should be removed from all public school libraries in Texas

Sara Moen
Self
Bedford, TX

Librarians are educated and trained to do their jobs. Politicians have not received this same education or training. Why are you assuming that you have the expertise to create regulations in an area that you have no experience in? Please leave the books selected and bought for school libraries in the hands of the educated, trained and highly capable librarians. All districts have the processes in place for book reviews and challenges. This is should be left to local control and not be a state issue.

Tara Harrelson
Self
Round Rock, TX

I strongly support HB 900 because it prohibits harmful, sexually explicit materials in public schools.

Robert Romano
Self, lumber supply owner
Dallas, TX

For

Raquel Garcia
Self
LaMarque, TX

“I strongly support HB 900 because it prohibits harmful, sexually explicit materials in public schools. Make America Morally Right!

Karen Roberson
Self
Seguin, TX

I oppose banning books.

Lisa Branch
Self
Celina, TX

Pornography isn't appropriate in our schools.

Emily Smith
Self
Austin, TX

This governing body has shown repeatedly that it isn't interested in what's best for the students of Texas. Less guns, more books.

Debra Rushing
SELF
Sherman, TX

Do not pass this horrible bill!
Do not steal our freedom of speech and reading!

Phillip Granderson
Kessler Conservatives
Dallas, TX

I am for HB 900

Christie Gudowski
Self
San Antonio, TX

Please vote no! Parents already have opt out choices. School districts already have policies regarding Nicole ruin development. Our school libraries need to serve ALL students.

Jeannette Jacoby
Self
CAMERON, TX

Our librarians are qualified to decide which books go in our libraries and there are already processes in place for parents to opt their children out of checking out books they deem offensive. No to HB 900. Thank you.

Tyler Wine
Self
Melissa, TX

In support of HB900

Andrea Glenn, Mrs.

Self
The Hills, TX
I am FOR HB900. I want sexually explicit books removed from TX public schools.

Tania Vazquez, Ms.

Self, Caregiver/Mother
Weatherford, TX
Please protect our children from sexually explicit material in school.

Jen Marini

Self
McKinney, TX
All pornographic and obscene materials should be removed from all public school libraries in Texas!

Sherry White

Self
McKinney, TX
I oppose public school libraries purchasing and adding pornographic or obscene materials into their collections.

Castle Cuevas

Self - mom
Cedar Park, TX
I'm urging you to vote FOR HB 900. Sexually explicit content and materials are in our schools. I have been on review committees and heard testimony regarding some of the material. We need to safeguard our minor children from this material, and HB 900 will do that.

Natalie Buchanan, CPNP

Myself / occupation
Lakeway, TX
I am for HB 900. I want sexually explicit books removed from Texas public schools.

BECKY BELEW, Mrs.

Self
KERRVILLE, TX
FOR HB900. PLEASE PASS THIS BILL!

Kristin Murphy

Self - stay at home mom.
The Hills, TX
I am FOR HB900. I want sexually explicit books removed from TX public schools.

Sandra Messer

Self
Plano, TX
All pornographic and obscene materials should be removed from all public school libraries in Texas

Angelique Harris

Self

Tomball, TX

I am against the banning of books in our school libraries. We hire librarians for a reason. School districts have procedures in place if parents do not want their child to have access to a book. My family has been in Texas since the 1860s and I do not understand how a state that used to pride itself of individualism is allowing a minority of loud mouth parents to terrorize our schools. It is beyond sad. Stop this nonsense and start working on real issues Texans face.

Joy Briones

Self

Mckinney, TX

Criteria and judgement for the purchasing and shelving of books should remain LOCAL. Furthermore, books should be available to suit a broad and diverse audience. Parents can and should continue to parent and provide guidance to their children on appropriate context. Parents also have the option to fill out a form to restrict what their children check out at the library.

Loren Simpson

Swlf

Lago Vista, TX

No banning of books!

Abigail Patel

Self and stay at home mom

San Antonio, TX

I support HB 900! I want the R and X rated books out of the schools now!

Andrea Montalvo

Self I'm concerned mom and citizen

Cedar Park, TX

Banning books is absurd, ignorant and against liberty, against everything this country should stand for which is freedom.

Amber Samuels

Self

Prosper, TX

Representation is powerful for children to see books that have characters who are like them. Not all children are alike hence we need variety and different perspectives in those books. Banning books bans thoughts, critical thinking and those moments of a child seeing themselves. School libraries are the most accessible libraries available to children and this bill should be seriously considered as an infringement on access to knowledge.

Susan Brundidge

self

Georgetown, TX

Please stop this travesty of placing and encouraging filth in the hands, hearts, and minds of our precious young people.

Richard Verdin

Self

Carrollton, TX

Books should be appropriate and suitable for our youth. It should be age appropriate. Pornographic, sex related materials should not be bought, or placed in school libraries.

Sara Lutz
Self/homemaker
Round Rock, TX

Stop banning books. Let all children be represented in the books they read. Stop imposing a belief system on everyone. If a parent doesn't want their child to read a book, fine...but don't keep my children from reading. Libraries are the beacon of learning...banning books is in direct opposition to this. I have the right to read what I want, when I want, how I want. Stop the madness.

Marcos Prado
Self
Farmers Branch, TX

Access to information is fundamental to the growth of our future. The government should not be infringing on the rights of parents to deem what is appropriate and what is not for the children of Texas public schools.

Raynor Patel
Self and Field Technician
San Antonio, TX

I support HB 900! I want the R and X rated books out of the schools now!

Angelica Gonzalez
Self
san Antonio, TX

I support HB 900! I want the r and x rated books out of schools now

Maxine Higginbotham
Self/Parent
Northlake, TX

Librarians are the experts in content selection and I trust the school librarians to choose appropriate items for their school audiences. As a parent, it is my responsibility to monitor what my own children are reading. I do this frequently. It is, however, not any other parent's job to say what reading materials my kids can or cannot access.

It is as important that our children see themselves in books as it is for them to see others who are different from them. I am against the passing of HB900.

Amelia Patrick
Self - engineer and instructor
Spring, TX

Let us have access to books! Only the Nazis ban books; this is not what happens in a free and open society. Stop 1930's Germanizing my Texas!!!!

Amy Bizzell
Self - mother
San Antonio, TX

The mere idea of banning books should make everyone terrified. And for those who did not study history, it is most decidedly not an American or Texan idea. The idea of banning or "regulating" is the very thing that was supported by Hitler. Is that the legacy you want for your children? Is that how you wish to be remembered? As Hitler-esque? The only gains to this type of censorship are those to your own ego. Do better.

Kameron Bean
Self
San Antonio, TX

I am strongly opposed to HB900. This bill is egregious overreach - what a child is allowed to read should be monitored and regulated by the parent, not the government, and this means all parents, not just the conservative ones. If a parent does not want their child reading something, it is up to that individual parent to monitor that. It is not necessary to remove materials from the library to appease some parents, while disregarding the wishes of the rest of the parents.

Kelly Lutrell
Self
San antonio, TX

I support HB 900! I want the R and X rated books out of the schools now!

Jessica Lamberg
Self content designer
Round Rock, TX

We do not need to ban books. Public libraries need to represent everything. Banning books will only limit the education of our Texas students who deserve the best education possible. Do not ban books it's unnecessary and only leads to a slippery slope of trying to accommodate the few who are uncomfortable with people who are different than what they think is normal. Banning books is not the answer and will harm our students.

Sara Shelton
Self
Liberty hill, TX

This should not be left up to a third party. This should be decided by the educated teachers and librarians who know what is developmentally appropriate for school age children.

Alex Hendrickson
Self
Kyle, TX

All books should be readily available to children. If you start deciding what is or is not appropriate in a school library, where does it start? Kids need to see representations of themselves - black, white, gay, straight, autistic, wheelchair bound, etc in order to feel accepting. This is more than just saying "me, as an adult doesn't want a book depicting 2 dads as the main characters available to my child because I'd never want them to be gay." It's about a child's development and showing them it is acceptable to have those feelings. We would do a real injustice to our kids if we started censoring what they can read based on our (as adults) bias. Remember, racism is taught, it's not something we're born with. Same goes for the bias this book banning promotes.

Leanne Tessandori
Self
San Antonio, TX

Public school libraries should not have sexually explicit books available to children. School children's innocent imagination should not be corrupted or irreversibly exploited through pornographic images found in these books. It is the parent's right first, if and when to inform or teach of sexual education, as they deem appropriate.

Sonia Wolfrom

Self

Spring, TX

Inappropriate books should not be placed in our school libraries. Children should remain innocent and subliminal indoctrination about sexual orientation and sex changes through the guise of novels should not be allowed. Scholastic Books seems to be pushing the line. Please help protect our children. I'm a teacher and am appalled at the new material including the STAAR testing questions that totally cross the line. It's not ok.

Doris Hair, Ms.

Self - retired

Conroe, TX

For HB 900. Please support.

Kent D Messer

Self

Plano, TX

All pornographic and obscene materials should be removed from all public school libraries in Texas.

Kerri Wittwer

Self

Melissa, TX

All pornographic and obscene books should be removed from our public schools.

Marcia Strickler-Watson

Self

Austin, TX

I am a mother and parent of two boys. I am FOR Rep Pattersons Bill to remove the sexually explicit books out of our public school libraries.

Angela Ross

self

Dallas, TX

HB900 is a slippery slope to book banning. It's also another ploy for the Conservative Party to put another nail in the coffin of public schools. Instead of having school for all, they'd rather let the privatization of public schools happen. And we all know that doesn't work, but does line the pockets of politicians.

Rita Everett

Self

San Antonio, TX

I do not support banning books for children. Parents can teach their children which books are acceptable at home but they have no place telling schools what's acceptable learning or reading material. If the parents don't trust the schools or their own children they are welcome to bow out of public education. Let's face it, this isn't about books, it's about adults who can't parent and are afraid of their own scary thoughts so they think everyone else must think that way too. Religion, politics and censorship have no place in our schools- keep the books ban the parents.

Rhonda Regan

Self

Melissa, TX

All pornographic material should be removed from public libraries.

Kimberly Simmons

Self - Homemaker

Dallas, TX

All pornographic and obscene materials should be removed from all public school libraries in Texas!

Erica Schommer

Self, attorney and mother of a public school student

San Antonio, TX

I oppose this bill and any attempt to regulate the books our public school librarians select. They are trained professionals. They know their students and families. It is my responsibility as a parent to discuss books with my child. This is not a matter that should be regulated at the state level.

Ashley Lovell

Self

Cleburne, TX

“Censorship is the child of fear and the father of ignorance.” -Laurie Halse Anderson

Banning books will only make the ignorance grow increasingly higher in this country. The less our children are able to access books that help them to educate themselves, because let's face it not all parents are willing to help educate their children or have the time to do so. People need to learn to think for themselves and that scares the government. Leave books alone!

“Any book worth banning is a book worth reading.” ?Isaac Asimov

Sheryl Ward

Self

Gunter, TX

Remove pornographic materials from public schools and public libraries. If parents want this for their children they can buy it at a sex shop and educate at home. School and public libraries is not the place for LGBTQ and pornographic material

Theresa Carrell

Self

Lewisville, TX

Our librarians and teachers are well-trained in providing appropriate literature for students. Parents are not. We send children to school to become educated citizens who can then contribute to the world as adults. Limiting the scope of what they can learn only hurts all of our future. We need to trust the professionals to teach. Micromanaging by banning books is a terrible disservice to our schools and our children. And sets the clock back on our future. Children are not hurt by books and ideas. But political agendas might be....

Jennifer Kelleher
Self/Director
Newark, TX

I am writing to express my strong opposition of HB 900. Regulating books sold to and included in public schools is the very definition of big government. Parents are capable of deciding what is right for their children and do not need the government dictating what is accessible to them. This bill is being framed as providing parents voice and choice, when it is actually allowing a small number of individuals to dictate what all children have access to based on their own beliefs, opinions and biases. I urge the Texas legislature to uphold the principles of small government and vote against this bill.

Yvonne Salazar
Self Educator
El Paso, TX

I support Texas school librarians who are highly trained professional educators that select books based on local policies, approved by our school board. I trust school librarians, not out-of-state vendors, to determine if content in books is appropriate. And parents, not the state, are responsible for determining what their children read.

Briana Anderson
Self - Sales Director
Austin, TX

I strongly support HB 900 because it prohibits harmful, sexually explicit materials in public schools.

Adri Smith
Self
Fort Worth, TX

When you are choosing what books our children can and cannot read because of your own religious or political beliefs-you are going against the very principles that America was founded on. Freedom of choice. Freedom to make your own educated decisions. Stop trying to dumb down our kids so you can mold them to fit into your narrow-minded way of thinking. There are many perspectives in the world-and I have learned about different perspectives by reading diverse selections of books when I was a school teacher. We can't learn to empathize for others or connect with our fellow citizens if we don't have opportunities to see things from their perspective-and those are the types of books that you are trying to ban. You are doing a disservice to our children.

Benjamin Montoya
Self, Registered Behavior Technician
McKinney, TX

All phonographic and or sexually charged or illicit materials should be removed from the premises of public school libraries and should not be available for rent or use in a public institution that promotes education for children of any and all ages.

Melissa Charles
Self
San Antonio, TX

I want the R and X rated
Books out of our schools! I support HB 900!

Randall Preissig, MR

Self

Frisco, TX

As a father of two elementary school children in FISD, I support HB900. There are plenty of wonderful books in the world without sexually explicit material. If a librarian can't fill a school library with interesting books without resorting to sexually explicit material, then perhaps they shouldn't be a librarian. Parents who want their children to read sexually explicit material are free to purchase those books from Amazon on their children's behalf any time they want. I don't pay tax money to have my children exposed to materials that I find vulgar and inappropriate for their age.

Rachel Franz

Self

Dallas, TX

Please reject this bill. The freedom to read and explore new ideas is essential to education and school librarians are trained and capable of cultivating a collection that promotes growth, diversity of thought, and encourages curiosity. That is the foundation of a robust educational experience. To say that there are people with nefarious motivations is nothing short of ridiculous and insulting. If parents do not want their children to read a certain book, they are well within their rights to keep them from it. Likewise, parents who want to provide their children more open and varied opportunities to inform themselves they should be allied the same options. You cannot espouse parental privilege without extending it to parents whose views you may not agree with. I trust librarians and parents and want books to be available to my children in their schools that provide a wealth of differing views. Politicians regulating what books libraries can and cannot have is against that idea and should not be allowed.

Rosalinda Adams

Self

San Antonio, TX

I want the R and X rated books out of the schools now!

Kelly Van Meter

Self - educational consultant

Lakeway, TX

I do not support legislation that bans books. I trust school librarians, teachers, and administrators to ensure that students have access to a variety of books that are suitable for their developmental level. As a parent, I welcome the opportunity to talk with my own kids about a variety of issues when they encounter them through books and stories.

Aileen Blachowski

self

Prosper, TX

For the record, I want to reiterate for all House Public Education members that never was I triggered into experiencing PISD from reading any passage (and I have read them ALL) from the Holy Bible. I cannot say the same of some of the books I have reviewed while dealing with the removal of sexually explicit books in Prosper ISD. The title Milk & Honey by Rupi Kaur is one particular example, which I decided would be the end of my book-reviewing career because of the negative effect it had on me, a mature adult who has received extensive PTSD counseling and therapy. Milk and Honey normalizes the dissociative victim pathology of a serially abused sex assault victim. There is no resolution or healing; just victimization. This is not something with which we should desire any of our kids identify. In fact, "accidentally" coming across sexual assault in a book's content may trigger prior trauma, effectively re-traumatizing young victims. This is in no way positive for learning readiness.

The stated definitions in the bill are solid. TSLAC and SBOE can handle the details. ALL testifiers and questioners are in agreement that some book boundaries are necessary. Let's pass HB 900 and clean up the school libraries of the hundreds of surprise titles with sexually explicit content which, in my district, were often discovered in "Reading Workshops." School representatives admit that this bill would be helpful in creating involuntary standards, as did a president of the Texas Library Association.

I am honored to call Rep. Jared Patterson my State Representative in HD 106, and I vigorously support the passage of HB 900.

Jessica Esslinger

Self

San Antonio, TX

As a parent of two school age children, I am beyond fed up with the x rated or sexualizing books that I have found in my children's library in NEISD. I have found the book Rick that tells children of 5th grade that if they aren't attracted to girls or boys then you are in the rainbow club and are asexual. This is not acceptable to tell children that have barely begun puberty that they are asexual. Parents need to know that x-rated and sexually suggestive books will not be on the shelves. I would also welcome a rating system such as what is available for video games and movies when it comes to the content of books. As a parent I would like to see the cover and know that the book contains explicit language, violence, sexual content, etc and be able to opt my children out of being able to check those kinds of books out.

Jaclyn Pyatt

Self

San Antonio, TX

I support this effort to restrict explicit and adult-designated materials in school libraries, absent of parental consent.

Paula Jimenez

Self, University enrollment counselor

Cedar Park, TX

I was raised as by Republican parents who encouraged me to read everything I could. They wanted me to be aware of what is going on in the world and to have empathy toward others. I grew up to become a teacher partly because I wanted to instill a love for reading in other children. While teaching, I changed parties to become a Democrat because of policies that were being put in place by Republican-led lawmakers. As a parent, I have never felt uninformed or misinformed by my children's teachers when it comes to the books they choose to read. I have felt greatly misled by lawmakers who say they are for small government but interfere in every aspect of a person's life, including the choices allowed in schools for books for children to read. What my child reads is between me, my child, and their teachers, not a lawmaker who has never met us. My child, my choice.

Dawn Novak

Self

Van Alstyne, TX

I am against any pornographic or sexually explicit material being distributed to minors!

Angela Davis
Self
Keller, TX
Against HB900

Erin Lee
Self
San Antonio, TX

I am in support of this bill! Please get those filthy sexually-charged books out of our schools!!!

PETERSON Claire
Self/teacher
San Antonio, TX

Teachers and librarians are trained and educated on selecting and curating appropriate texts for the age that we teach. These types of bills are nothing but a political ploy.

Lauren Schoenduby
Self
Leander, TX
For HB 90 by Patterson

Gwen Dudine
Self
McKinney, TX

We do not need to have sny materials available to kids that would not be appropriate to read or see at a school board meeting.

Andrea Miller
Self, stay at home mom
Houston, TX

I strongly oppose this bill. Our school staff, teachers, and librarians are thoroughly qualified to select appropriate reading materials for our children and need to have the ability to react to real-life situations with relevant instructional materials. School districts already have plenty of controls in place to guide appropriate selection along with procedures in place to challenge and remove books should parents feel inappropriate material is in the school. Taking the control away from school district sand schools will place additional challenges on already overburdened school staff and hinder the education of our children. True republicans believe in allowing individuals and small governments to determine their own path and taking this away from the districts and schools and over ruling them with unnecessary legislation by the state is antithetical to true republicanism.

Kayla Summerfelt
Self
TX, TX

I strongly support HB 900 because it prohibits harmful, sexually explicit materials in public schools.

Jose Fuentes
Self
Garland, TX

Removing any pornographic and obscene materials from schools.

Jenni Jones
Self (Higher Education)
Brazoria, TX

Books should not be restricted in institutions of public education.

Books are often windows or mirrors to our children, my children. Sometimes, with windows, and allow students to humanize, understand, and empathize with people who aren't like them. Books that serve as mirrors, allow them to reaffirm their own identities.

Surprise! Kids that are not white do exist. Gay students and parents exist. Non-Christian students exist. Not giving these student mirrors, or providing windows to those that live differently, is a disservice to everyone involved.

We know the republicans in Texas are trying to crush our public school system, via use of vouchers and systemic segregation - but books are critical to everyone. I will continue to send my three children to school with "banned books" to share and discuss with their peers - as I will raise kind and empathetic children who understand true history and minorities.

Why don't you start practicing your "party of small government" nonsense? Freedom that you shout about! Texas and the students served here are diverse, and are worth of windows and mirrors.

April Munson
Self
Kyle, TX

As a Texas public school educator of 14 years in elementary and a parent of a 9 year old in public school, I believe HB 900 is a waste of time and shows a lack of trust in our school librarians. This bill will open the flood gates for book bans in our state. I do not support this proposed legislation.

JoAnne Leavitt
Self RETIRED
Spicewood, TX

I am FOR HB900. I want sexually explicit books removed from TX public schools.

Laura Hanks
self/former teacher
Houston, TX

I strongly support HB900 as a way of protecting children from harmful and sexually explicit subject matter in our public schools. Just as we want kids to be protected and safe physically while in school, their developing minds and hearts should also be protected from things that would cause them harm.

Chelsa Williams
Self
Spicewood, TX

I am FOR HB900. I want sexually explicit books removed from TX public schools.

Tina Hankins
Tina
Plano, TX

Pornographic and serialized content should be banned from schools

Kori Wilson
Self - teacher/parent
Spring Branch, TX

We all know that the information we feed our minds and the minds of children through any media, including books, affects the way we see and react to the world around us. Books found in public school libraries should contain only messages that are wholesome and helpful in encouraging students to grow into respectful and respectable individuals. Explicit sexual content has absolutely no place in a public school library and should be removed from schools permanently. Public schools were not set up to feed the minds of children that kind of content; they were set up to make sure that all children had access to the learning they needed to become successful, productive (NOT REproductive) citizens. Books sold or included in public school libraries should be regulated and should most certainly exclude explicit sexual content!

Barbara Kelly
Self
Princeton, TX

Please protect our kids! These are illegal and there inappropriate. If they can't be read at school board meetings, why are they in our schools?

Debbie Winfrey
Self retired
San Antonio, TX

For

Candice Hopkins
Self social worker
Austin, TX

The idea of banning books to make kids safer is ludicrous. The concept of parental choice means choosing for your child not mine. I want my kid to read every one of the banned books. That decision is mine. Someone's definition of indecency that is based on a religion or religious ideas goes against my right as a parent to raise my child as I see fit.

Thomas Adams
Self
San Antonio, TX

I support HB 900. It is to get the X and rated R rated books out of the schools I want them out now.

Hannah Couch
Self
Allen, TX

For HB 900

Caitlyn Hughes
Self
Pflugerville, TX

I am against this as it is leading to the ban of too many books. Most of the books are not harmful in any way and are in fact very helpful for children to learn stories of people from all over. The bans are just targeting books by people of color with no real reason why it shouldn't be in schools.

ADRIAN MARTINEZ, Mr.

N/A

San Antonio, TX

Stop distributing sexually explicit books in schools

Elizabeth Crawford

self. Contracting Officer

Fort Worth, TX

I am opposed to bill. It is vaguely worded and will cause confusion among administrators and book distributors. It is nothing more than pathetic pandering to the religious right. It does nothing to prepare our young men and women to be competitive in today's world. If your goal is to make America a third world uncompetitive country then this bill will set us on the right track.

Heather Love

Self, mom

Spring Branch, TX

I support HB900, I want rated R and X out of schools now.

Janice Thigpen

Self

Magnolia, TX

I strongly support HB 900 because it prohibits harmful, sexually explicit materials in public schools.

Gail Eppner, Mrs.

Self

Celina, TX

I believe all pornographic and obscene materials should be removed from all public school libraries in Texas.

Tameka Robinson

Mother's Against Greg Abbott

Houston, TX

Everyday, we are told that our troops defend our freedoms. This bill undermines what our troops die for and what our country says it stands for. We are descending into a country that is no different than the nations we fight against. Books should be the personal choice of each individual family not the government.

Chip Campbell, Mr.

Self

Dallas, TX

I support Texas school librarians who are trained professional educators that select books based on local policies, approved by our school board. I trust school librarians, not out-of-state vendors, to determine if content in books is appropriate.

Amanda Drash

Self

Hollywood Park, TX

I support HB 900! I want the R and X rated books out of the schools now.

Kim Taylor

Self

Austin, TX

I unequivocally request that you stop the book banning now. I don't tell you how to raise your children and I don't expect you to tell me or any other parent how to raise theirs. My children are both avid readers and there are very few, if any books I'd deny them the ability to read right now. Books are not the danger. Banning books but not guns is not only illogical but dangerous. Hitler started with banning books too. Books aren't making our children gay or sexually active in any way. I don't have a problem with you deciding what your child should and shouldn't read but I do have a problem with you telling me what my child should be able to read. Let's be honest here, most of your children aren't reading books anyhow.

Caira Franz

Self

Llano T, TX

Support for HB900

Protecting children from sexually explicit material in books distributed in schools.

Aruna Viswanathan

Myself; software entrepreneur

Houston, TX

I am against the State having the deciding voice in what books are provided to school libraries. The librarians and school districts have significant precedence in this matter and there are school boards who are in place to handle this. Just because a process is difficult does not require it to be changed.

I see it as a form of repression to remove books unless absolutely necessary from our children. Our kids have far more exposure to sexualization, violence or quite frankly ANY of the concerns I have heard by simply going online at this point in time. Or watching an HBO or rated R movie. Can you ban Sephora from having LGQBT people in their ads? Will you stop websites from showing pictures of half naked women as clickbait? Can you to ban kids from reading the news or accessing chatrooms where sexual predators are discussed? To go after books thinking is frankly laughable. Let the parents of these kids be the voice - we pay the property tax bills that fund their education.

Ann Mitchell

Self

The Hills, TX

I am FOR HB900. I want sexually explicit books removed from TX public schools.

Becky Brown

Self - Executive Assistant

Wylie, TX

I support taking sexually explicit books out of public school libraries.

Kristin Edalatpour, Mrs

Self

San Antonio, TX

I support HB 900! I want the R and X rated books out of the schools now.”

Cathy Knapp, RN

Self

Fairview, TX

Please protect our children from the outside world !

Karen Ashmore
Fannin Pregnancy Care Center
Ravenna, TX

Please protect our children by regulating this illicit material from our schools

David Smart, Mr
Self-retired teacher
San Sabs, TX

I do not support sexual explicit books in school libraries

Diana Eshelman
Diana E Scentsy
Murphy, TX
For HB900

Kristen Pulpan
Self
Cypress, TX

As a mother of a kindergarten and 3 year old I'm appalled that we even have to vote for something like this. Our moral compass as a whole is way of course; we have to protect the innocence in the innocent.

Debra Liva, Ms
In Child's Best Interest (all children)
Little Elm, TX

I am 1000% in support of HB900 to remove pornographic and sexually explicit books from all school libraries to protect our children minds from such garbage and focus on education .We waste and misappropriate school funds and we can get better results using the money for real education and more pay for teachers. Please support HB900 Thank you

Debra Liva
SD 30- Denton. County

Erim Walsh
Self
Houston, TX

Books can be used as a teaching mechanism. If we don't learn about what's wrong with the past and books that offend people then the problem will never get fixed. Banning books isn't the solution.

Linda Culpepper
Self
San Saba, TX

As a retired public school teacher, I am concerned about the unthinkable ideology being forced on our precious children. I am FOR HB 900!!

Diana Crenshaw
Self
Plano, TX

No pornography in our schools. Stop specializing our children!!! No no no!!!

Elisabeth Madden

Self

Houston, TX

Schools are a place for learning and being exposed to new ideas. Banning, prohibiting or limiting books available to students is the exact opposite of that concept. My child shouldn't be denied access to books simply because another parent does not want their child to have access. That parent has every right to deny their child access to those books but they don't have the right to deny everyone access to it. This arbitrary delegation of bad books and adult material has already caused our teachers and library staff to be overworked as they recreate the wheel to re-classify every book in the building. Texas is facing an unprecedented labor shortage and yet we continue to add to teacher workloads because of a few outraged parents. I beg of you to stop listening to the angry few and continue to support inclusion for all students by allowing them to read about themselves and diverse individuals in books of all styles.

Jesse De Husson

Self a teacher

Greenville, TX

It is important that our schools are places of literacy, learning and higher thinking, however, they must also be a safe and protected environment to do so. It is not the place for students to have access to sexuality explicit materials or books.

Cynthia Sultemeier

Self

Johnson City, TX

For!!!

James Post

Self, Commercial Real Estate

Houston, TX

This bill has less to do with improving our schools or benefiting the children of Texas than it is designed for soundbites for future political campaign fundraising, or those currently in office seeking higher elected positions. Trust our educators; trust our parents to be parents; and support local government. This blatant overreach of power by "big government" (in this case The State of Texas) is unwelcome in our State and unbecoming of our elected officials.

Kim Tibbs

Self/Rda

Van Alstyne, TX

All pornography and obscene materials should be removed from all public schools libraries in Texas!

Connie Reed

A grandparent of children that attend public schools.

Prosper, TX

I believe all R and X rated books should be removed from all public schools. We as descent adults should protect the children of all ages in the our schools.

Laura Rangel

Self

Austin, TX

As a taxpayer and resident of Texas there should be NO regulation of books sold to or included in public school libraries. I'm sure schools and librarians know what is appropriate and if parents don't want their kids to read a particular book then don't have your kid check it out, it's common sense. If we're regulating books then I expect the Bible to be banned in schools. That's a very violent book. Your priority should be making children feel safe at school not deciding what book my child can or cannot read. Texas is NOT Florida, we're better than that.

Jessie Mendez

PAC

Spring Branch, TX

I support HB 900!

Rebecca Harrison, Mrs.

Self

San Antonio, TX

Sexually explicit books should not be in our schools.

Emmit Sledge

Self

San Marcos, TX

HB-900 Please help protect our children from any sexually explicit material, whether in a magazine or in a library, or in the schools. This must stop before our children thinks it's normal for them to consider sex before they have learned to ride a bicycle. Allow them to be children. You should remember how care free you once were as a child? Please allow them to be also.

Doreen Kent

self

Keller, TX

HB900

please consider any and all pornography to be banned in public schools in Texas.

Danny Smith, Mr.

Self- training director and QA manager for TBI rehabilitation

Wimberley, TX

Those that ban books are never the "good guys". We in TX are better than this. Act like it.

Carlton Teel

Self

Fairview, TX

No sexually explicit books should be in any school regardless of age.

Kelley Anderson

Christians

Melissa, TX

I do not want any pornography allowed in libraries.

Robin Breed

Self

Austin, TX

We should trust our librarians and quit acting like China by censoring voices and books. This is America right? Freedom is everything so let the kids read what their parents allow.

Alison Hatfield

Self

Kyle, TX

Schools are places of learning, we should not be banning books. We should be discussing points of view and historical perspectives and how and why books are written. Open discussion about issues and/or books that one may take issue with, is far more valuable than the Fascist reaction to ban what you don't like.

Ione McGinty

Teacher

Castle Hills, TX

As a mother of 6, it is imperative to protect children from pornographic material. Books discussing things of a sexual nature should not be allowed in schools.

Dave Robbins, Mr

Concerned Christian Citizens

Holland, TX

Please support HB 900. It is vital for our children

Darlene Shue

Texas taxpayers

Lake Jackson, TX

Sexually explicit books have no place in public schools!

Lilia Elizondo

Self - accountant

Laredo, TX

Rep. Richard Raymond please support HB 900

Robertson Mearns
Self, Commercial pilot
Granbury, TX

I wanted to take a moment to express my support for restrictions on inappropriate sexual content in school textbooks. In the same way that we don't allow young people to drive or drink alcohol prior to certain ages, we should likewise take care that wholesome, educational content is presented in an appropriate manner.

My family has reviewed several books in the Granbury Independent School District Library...and it is my heartfelt belief that GISD staff is guilty of contributing to the delinquency of a minor for the effect many of the books will have on young impressionable minds. It's shocking and disturbing that any adult would find this acceptable much less those in leadership positions.

I sincerely hope the legislature will close the loopholes cure being exploited to introduce this material into the public school libraries and I pray it happens quickly.

Robert Mearns

Holly Wise
Self
Richland Springs, TX

FOR

Jennifer Paulson
Self
Houston, TX

I strongly support HB900 because it prohibits harmful, sexually explicit materials in public schools.

Jill Robbins, Mrs
Self /Nurse
Holland, TX

I am in support of this bill that will help protect children from inappropriate reading materials in our schools and Libraries.

Myung Lee
Self / Educator - Administrator
Allen, TX

Promotion or normalizing ideas on gender preference should not be on any children's books, especially in a school library where parents do not have direct guidance.

Misty Griffis
self
Granger, TX

I strongly support HB 900 because it prohibits harmful, sexually explicit materials in public schools.

Javier Elizondo
Self - retired
Laredo, TX

Rep. Richard Raymond please support HB 900

Stacy Duffy, Favor of Bill HB900

Self

McKinney, TX

I am writing in favor of Bill HB900. My husband and I have four young children, and we escaped the indoctrination going on in Chicago in search of greener pastures. We heard nothing but amazing things about McKinney Texas. We needed to be near Dallas for work, but chose this little enclave in north Texas because of the amazing school systems. Needless to say, I was incredibly disappointed to see that the prayers and faith was all a facade, as our school district is drowning in wokeism. Yes, I am so disappointed that we escaped the hellscape of wokeism in Chicago, to find more of the same cloaked in Christianity and southern charm. And if you speak out against it, you're labeled a bigot and intolerant. I have spoken at several board meetings and seen parents get shut up and shoved out of public spaces. We get told we are the enemy and do not care for our SROs and teachers. My brothers are police so that is laughable. And I know there are great teachers, but they are leaving in droves because they are handcuffed to test scores and indoctrination with a measly 2% pay increase while

Our superintendent makes one of the highest salaries in the state. The gall of higher ups and woke virtue signalers to tell us to shut up and sit down is sickening. I have read some of these books in our schools and it is tragic that any adult that has even a single child in their charge would deem these appropriate. From sexually perverse and explicit to images of self harm to details of killing, I cannot believe what I am seeing. Do our children not deserve better?? Why is it bigoted to speak up against this filth?? Do these people think so little of lgbt students that they think their minds should be warped by this?? I can't believe I have to continue to explain to grown adults what the term ban means. As usual the left drums up a narrative and runs full scale with it. Nobody is asking for books to be banned. Any retailer can sell it and you can buy it for your child. Even most people don't mind it being available at the public library. But our schools should curate appropriate content for the minors in their charge. Would people be outraged if it were a Playboy available to them? Or an Eminem cd boasting about murdering his baby's mama?? This whole issue has gotten way out of hand. Why do we have standards for what our kids can be given in the private sector to watch, listen to or see, but not hold our public institutions to the same standard? Saying they will find it on the internet so who cares is another dumb argument. Children will want to do a lot of things they shouldn't. Smoke, drink, do drugs. We don't make these things more accessible to them. And that only makes the argument for limiting internet access in schools in my opinion. Plus, these books are available in all the apps they have access to. Please vote in favor of this bill. Our children deserve better.

Jacob Couch

Self

McKinney, TX

I am for HB 900. All pornographic materials should be removed from all schools in Texas

Alicia Adams

Self

Richmond, TX

I am against HB 900. As a former librarian and current mother of 2 children in public school I trust our local educators. There is already a local plan to oversee books. We don't need this bill.

This bill has less to do with improving our schools or benefiting the children of Texas than it is designed for soundbites for future political campaign fundraising, or those currently in office seeking higher elected positions. Trust our educators; trust our parents to be parents; and support local government. This blatant overreach of power by "big government" (in this case The State of Texas) is unwelcome in our State and unbecoming of our elected officials.

Davidln Borjas

Self

McKinney, TX

I am in favor of HB900. No child should have pornogaphy available through the school. Schools should be a safe space. Parents should be the ultimate judge for what their children are exposed.

Stanley Leavitt
Self Contractor
Spicewood, TX

I am FOR HB 900.
I want sexually explicit books removed from Texas public schools.

Neda Henery
Self/retiree
Conroe, TX

FOR! FOR! Do the right thing!

Melissa Barker
Self
Llano, TX

FOR

Emmaleigh Toto
Classroom Teacher
San Marcos, TX

HB900 hurts students and families across Texas by targeting teachers and casting us as enemies to children and democracy. We are trained professionals with one of the hardest and most demanding jobs, a job that requires deep commitment, training, and empathetic kindness.

Please treat us as the seasoned professionals we are, and trust our expertise to decide what materials best suit the students in our classrooms. Honor and respect us as professionals who are dedicated in meeting the demands of the curriculum, which includes the freedom to discuss disturbing parts of American history if and when we judge students are ready for it, and the freedom to determine how to help young people navigate the psychological and social challenges of growing up. In short, teachers need the respect and freedom to prepare students to become future members of a democratic society who can engage in making responsible and informed contributions and decisions about our world. Letting the education of the children of Texas—the FUTURE of Texas—become collateral damage in partisan political ‘culture wars’ by demonizing teachers and attacking public education is reprehensible and has no place in our great state. Do not pass legislation that damages the future of our state.

Kathleen Murphy
self, researcher
Austin, TX

Please say no to HB 900. It undermines the authority and expertise of librarians, who are among our society's most important guardians of intellectual liberty.

Sondra Alderson
Self
McKinney, TX

I do not want any sexually explicit books in our schools.

Becki Robledo
Self - Real Estate
Buda, TX

Books should not be banned from our libraries. Books are an incredible asset and are essential to our society and a good education. Please do not ban books from our public school libraries. Our children should have access to all types of books.

Christine Roberts

Self/Retired

Yantis, TX

I strongly support HB 900 because it prohibits harmful, sexually explicit materials in public schools.

Debi Wooten

Self

Plano, TX

This bill has less to do with improving our schools or benefiting the children of Texas than it is designed for soundbites for future political campaign fundraising, or those currently in office seeking higher elected positions. Trust our educators; trust our parents to be parents; and support local government. This blatant overreach of power by "big government" (in this case The State of Texas) is unwelcome in our State and unbecoming of our elected officials.

Mari Cornelius

Self

Austin, TX

Please remove sexual material from our schools. Protect our kids.

Colleen Aguilar-Epstein

Self. Retired teacher. Precinct 76 chair

Plano, TX

I support HB900

John Allison

Self, Software Engineer

Austin, TX

I enthusiastically support HB 900 because it keeps harmful, sexually explicit materials out of public schools.

Jenny Lawson

Self/Teacher

Corinth, TX

The more we ban books, the more we lean towards a Fahrenheit 451 society. Banning of books and the censorship of writing fosters further ignorance

Erica Martindale

Self

Austin, TX

I volunteer weekly at my kid's library. The librarians are wonderful people who I completely trust to curate the contents of our library. I also helped during our recent book fair. I got to see how excited kids get about reading. Some of my favorite books as a child have been placed on various lists for their content. Like the Giver and A Wrinkle in Time and Redwall. If these books hadn't been in my public school library, I probably wouldn't be the book lover I am today.

Lisa Payne

Concerned parentp

San antonio, TX

Get x and R rated books out of schools!

Kathleen Ocker
We the People Liberty in Action
Kerrville, TX

Please support HB 900 and STOP Sexualization of children in Texas schools. Sexually explicit books have no place in school libraries. Help protect vulnerable children by supporting this bill.

Meghan Healey
Self
Austin, TX

Texas prides itself on individual freedom. This regulation of books goes against Texas values of anti-regulation. I am against this regulation of freedom of speech.

Deborah White
Self
Austin, TX

As a lifelong Texan, I believe this bill to be against the freedoms Texans stand for. Banning and censoring is not the American way. Representation of different groups of people matters.

Brekka Larrew, Librarian
Self
Lakeway, TX

Hi, I select books for a living and have a masters degree backing my expertise. Frankly, I fail to see how people with less expertise and experience will do a better job. If this bill passes, I think I'll just quit. I'm sure I won't be alone. Texas students will be the losers, as research proves that school librarians have significant impact on student achievement.

The parents and students in my community trust, love, and respect me. Please stop this nonsense and let librarians do our job. This bill is insulting and disrespectful.

Thank you.

Wayne Brent, Mr.
Self/retired
Katy, TX

I strongly support HB 900 because it prohibits sexually explicit materials in public school libraries. These resources do not belong in the school environment.

Amy Troutman
Self - self-employed health and wellness consultant
McKinney, TX

Removing obscene and pornographic material from Texas public schools is a must in order to preserve the minds of our young children

Jason Troutman
Self - quality control medical devices
McKinney, TX

Please remove all pornographic books from Texas state public schools.

kris kennedy

Self. Lawyer and parent of a child in public school.

Austin, TX

The legislature should not be dictating what books are or are not included in school libraries. Librarians are trained educators and professionals who are certified to make these choices for their student body and we do not need the State to act as overseer, gatekeeper, or censor.

In case the bill's author isn't aware, here is what is required to be a public school librarian. It is a high bar.

<https://www.ischool.utexas.edu/programs/school-librarian-certificate>

This bill is a massive overreach based on a flawed and biased premise and, frankly, a draconian "solution" in search of a manufactured problem. I am against the bill.

Robin Caldwell

Self. Retired

Spring, TX

Hello,

I would like to say that reading has been my personal favorite thing since I was a little child. I sincerely believe knowledge is power. I DO NOT support banning books. There has to be a way for individual parents to review books their children read and NOT pass legislation to put THEIR preferences on everyone else. Because reading is a personal thing, it could afford families the opportunity for discussion of why or why not they can read certain books.

Banning books is not freedom. It is fascism.

Sincerely

Robin Caldwell

Jamie Hardin

Self

Somerville, TX

Books should not be censored in schools. Children should be allowed to read things at their reading and maturity level and have the freedom to ask questions and learn. If we shelter children from other beliefs we are doing them a huge disservice. Allowing kids to read things from different points of view is important. We have to stop banning materials and controlling the narrative for our children. Different cultures, beliefs, and family dynamics exist in the world and should be allowed to continue to exist in public school libraries

Elizabeth Stearns

Self

Lakeway, TX

The over-regulation of Library books political action committees have pressured legislators to address in HB900 is much ado about nothing. School Librarians are trained professionals and provide something for everyone in their schools. Not every book is a perfect fit for every reader, so Libraries clearly indicate reading levels, content summaries, and intended audiences in Library catalogs so readers can make educated decisions about what to choose to read. All books in school Libraries have value to someone in the reading audience, and by the virtue of elective inquiry, or personal reading choice, literacy is exercised and celebrated and educational value is achieved. Books at the high school level reflect the challenges, successes, and lessons inextricably involved in the teenage world. The mature content in young adult and general adult fiction books is never the first teenagers are hearing about complex issues involving sex, drugs, and rock & roll in the regular backdrop of their lives. Books offer a story arc, however, in which those issues can be negotiated with empathy and every choice, good or bad, has a contextually relevant consequence. These books about the lives of young adults are not read aloud story-circle resources, and no one should be subjected to reading them or listening to them read aloud at school Board meetings. Activists reading aloud the personal, traumatic, and euphoric events in young adult lives and young adult literature are bad actors taking advantage of a captive audience. This is the antithesis of the Freedom to Read. This bill that is grasping to define what constitutes sexually explicit and sexually relevant material on a state-wide level and then subjectively banning books that do not conform to the state's subjective judgement of what content is permissible is the epitome of government overreach. It will also create a chilling and burdensome atmosphere for publishers, book vendors, authors, and Librarians. Please let trained professional Librarians do their job and protect the Freedom to Read and the value of elective inquiry in Libraries. Parents should parent their own kids and influence their reading choices, but they are not entitled to control what all students can access and choose to read in public school Libraries. Parents and politicians who value Liberty should not attempt to impose their views on Texas public school students and their families who believe in the Freedom to Read. HB900 should not be imposed on Texas schools. Please vote against this bill.

Karen Lowery

Self

Granbury, TX

Keep these sexually explicit age inappropriate books out of schools!

Melanie Ortiz

Self

Harlingen, TX

Every child has a right to have their own life stories reflected back at them. Every child benefits from reading stories about families that are different from their own. Holding back these children from growing and thriving benefits no one. Representation matters. LGBTQ+ representation matters. Love is love. It's that simple.

Cheryl Goodson, Mrs

Self

Odessa, TX

When we start banning books that one person feels inappropriate it takes away someone's ability to learn and grow. How far are we going to go to take away someone's ability to choose?

Carolyn Russo

self

Princeton, TX

I support house bill 900

Margie Frasier
Central Texas Tea Party
Temple, TX

That certain books at young and impressionable ages are definitely inappropriate to be learning from. Pornography, sexuality and lewdness is like giving a five year old the matches to burn a house down. We don't allow children to drive cars, get tattoos, body piercing etc, so why give them sexually explicit instructions in sex and all that goes with it. Pedophiles are rampant in our nation, as well as child prostitution. It is the grownups duty to protect children, not sell them for sexual favors or otherwise. Our children are precious gifts, not sewage. Tread carefully and sensibly. For you may never answer for your sins here, but you will stand before the Creator and answer for them then. I pity those who have depraved themselves and the children, but we all answer one way or another. Please don't allow such books or instructions to minors from high school and below.
Reading, writing, math, has been pushed aside for perversion. Be strong and courageous and stand against such things. Bring back truth, Justice, and the school system that actually taught children.
Sincerely MA Frasier ??????

Betty Jones
Myself as a Texas voter.
Temple, TX

I support HB 900. I have great grandchildren in the public school system and its very important that the types of books that goes into the school libraries are books that help and not destroy their little minds with things that are against the Word of God. Thank you

Blaire Jones
Self
Allen, TX

For the removal of pornographic and obscene books.

Geneva Reventlow
Self, teacher
Austin, TX

Librarians — who are educated in how to make these decisions — should choose the books for their schools in order to support students. I support students' right to read and learn.

Faye Holland
Self
Austin, TX

There are already ways for parents to opt of school library books. Please allow for local control of school libraries.

Melody Hornung
Myself and my family
Ovilla, TX

Natzi Germany banned books! It's the video games destroying the minds of our children!

Anna Maria Paulus
Conservative voices
Porter, TX

PLEASE!! Get porn out of our public school libraries!!

Lida Nguyen
Self
McKinney, TX

All pornographic and obscene materials should be removed from all public school libraries in Texas.

P V McMinn Jr
Tom Green County Republican Oarty
San Angelo, TX

We absolutely DO NOT want our innocent children to be subjected to the immoral, and in fact satanic, woke agenda of the left wing LGBTQ degenerates!!!!

Teach reading, writing (cursive), arithmetic, and “true” history! .

Otherwise,keep your sick queer globalist agenda to yourselves!!!!

Lisa Watson
Self/Guest Services
Clyde, TX

I support HB900

Kathryn Crenshaw, Mrs

Self

Rowlett, TX

Dear Representatives,

I am one of the many represented by Angie Chen Button, and as a mother of two elementary age children I oppose this bill.

I do not need a nanny state to micromanage well educate librarians. I trust in their education and knowledge.

Even more, I do not need The State Government to decide for me what is and is not appropriate for my children to have access to. You speak of parental control and that is what I ask for. The right to choose for myself, and not to have the government decide for me.

It is disheartening to see a party that once prided itself on being the party of small government consider laws that are similar to the kind of control I see in from the Chinese Communist Party. There, the State controls what books its citizens can access based on the taste of the ruling party. Is that really what we want in our state? In my opinion, there is nothing American about HP 900. It is government ment overreach at it's most egregious.

Furthermore, it is not needed by parents who are good at parenting. When I was young, my parents felt I should not read Steohen King. But they took responsibility for their own child. They were able to steer me away from books they disapproved of without needing Big Brother to ban all Stephen King books from libraries.

So now, I look at parents who support this bill as wanting to abdicated their parental responsibilities to the state. Did you not read Ayn Rand? We do not need or want state control over our children! To those in favor of this bill I say do better. Take some personal responsibility and raise your own child. Don't ask the government to do your job for you, and don't force your own parenting style onto me via the government! Your issues with keeping books you disapprove from your child is not my problem! I am sorry if they see things you disagree with on shelves, but this country promises freedom of speech, freedom of expression! It promises liberty! It does not promise freedom from everything that personally offends you.

I leave with this.

Giving more power to a State Government at the cost of individual choice is never the answer. It never makes for a good government. It makes for a hammer to beat down nails

You see the kind of Government Control proposed in HB900 in Iran; you see it from the Taliban; you see it in Communist China, and you saw it in Communist Russia and Communist Cambodia.

I do not want to see it in the Great State of Texas.

So, I am imploring my Representatives to be better.

I am imploring my representatives as a mother-for the sake of my children- to be American and support freedom

Do not support Not Big Brother.

Be the party of small government again.

Do not vote for HB 900

-Sincerely

Kathryn Crenshaw

Danielle Magestro-Musgrove

Self - Director

Dallas, TX

I am against regulating books as many will use this as a political tool rather than having a two way discussion with their children about why the book concerns them. They want all of the things (and people) in these books to disappear and they feel by banning them they will erase our existence. Books do not cause harm, they educate, empower, and entertain. As an adult, who was abused as a child, books were my comfort, and my friends, and they empowered me to use my creativity (writing and drawing) to process my trauma and gave me an outlet so I no longer felt alone and suicidal. Additionally the choice lies in the parent opting out for their child, not banning all of the books they disagree with. Thank you.

Emily Cochrane

Self

Prosper, TX

Having seen the books in the school libraries and their excerpts, I cannot help but be appalled. It's amazing to me that this type of content would be shielded if we tried to read it aloud publicly because it is indecent, but somehow makes it through the libraries under the guise of learning.

There is nothing of educational value to be gleaned from these books. Apart from the shock factor, most of them are poorly written and perpetuate stereotypes as well as promote misogynistic and disturbing practices. Many of the supporters of this content try to equate to the likes of Romeo and Juliet, and from what I've seen that could not be further from the truth.

This isn't about representation. This is about protecting our children from content that cannot be digested at their age. This isn't about book banning, this is about making sure that the content available to our children is academically valuable.

This bill is very much needed to put a better process in place.

Jodi Rivera

Self

Hollywood Park, TX

Get X and R rated books out of the school system

Susannah Rolf, LCSW

Self

Missouri City, TX

As a parent of two school aged children, I am concerned about the censorship of books within public education institutions. Research demonstrates that books are an exceptional teaching tool for helping students increase empathy. With hyper-partisanship and polarization on the rise, our democracy can not bear the weight of that increasing. The upcoming generation must be equipped with empathy and the ability to work towards solutions versus the continued pandering to their own interests and those who share them.

Meghan Matson

School speech therapist

Shavano Park, TX

As a parent and educator I feel it is imperative that we protect the innocence of Texas children and keep libraries public and is school free of gender confusion, DEI and SEL topics.

Jessica Fanelli

Self, teacher/parent/citizen

Highland Village, TX

I support Texas school librarians who are highly trained professional educators that select books based on local policies, approved by our school board. I trust school librarians, not out-of-state vendors, to determine if content in books is appropriate. And parents, not the state, are responsible for determining what their children read.

Noha K

Self

Austin, TX

Our librarians are qualified to decide which books go in our libraries and there are already processes in place for parents to opt their children out of checking out books they deem offensive. Please say no to HB 900. Thank you.

Rachel Dark

Self

Austin, TX

Banning books equates to banning education. How can you ban educational materials in an educational building.

steven zamora

Self

Austin, TX

As a lifelong Texan, I strongly oppose this bill and hope my Texas Representatives will shoot it down without looking back. This bill is dangerous.

Dru Musgrove

Self

Dallas, TX

Educational materials should be available to all, period. Truth will always find a way no matter your efforts to hide and censor them. The communities will teach and distribute the literature in spite of you and all your efforts will be a loss. You can't hide history, the real history, and you can't be scared to let our youth know the truths as well. We should empower our children and open their minds to all subjects so they can form their own opinions and ideas based off of what they learn. I personally started a banned book club just to make sure anyone who wanted the materials could have access to it. I will never stop being an advocate!

Sherry Martin

Self/retired

Joshua, TX

I strongly support HB 900 to prohibit sexually explicit materials in public schools.

April Pett

Self

McKinney, TX

I support HB900. We need to protect our children from pornographic materials in our schools and hold the book sellers accountable.

Adam Semien

Self

Austin, TX

Regulating the books a child is allowed to access gives the power-at-be the ability to control any narrative (past or present) as they see fit. It's my opinion that these types of regulations lead to propaganda, and the spreading of misinformation.

T Garza

Self licensed clinical social worker

San Antonio, TX

This is an unnecessary and dangerous attempt to further attack the professional integrity of educators that are trained to select a variety of age appropriate materials for their schools. When will the ridiculous pandering end, culture wars are ruining education. Patterson and the other legislators who back this nonsense need to try think hard if this is the most pressing issue that faces our state.

Linda Ramos

Self/retired teacher

El Paso, TX

Liberty and justice for ALL. Isn't that what the constitution reads? Does it really mean for all or just a few chosen ones? I would like to also know why the views of liberty moms is so right. I would love to go back and teach- especially with the shortage of teachers that is being experienced at this time. Unfortunately, being subjected to one group and their beliefs is holding me back.

Jenn Marttinen

Self

Austin, TX

No

Annette Fontaine

Self

Cedar park, TX

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed regulation of books in school libraries. As a concerned citizen, I believe that any attempt to restrict access to literature is a direct violation of our fundamental right to freedom of expression and education.

Books are essential tools for learning and growth, and it is imperative that our children have access to a diverse range of perspectives and ideas. By attempting to regulate the books in our school libraries, we risk limiting our children's ability to develop critical thinking skills, empathy, and an understanding of the world around them.

Moreover, censorship of any kind is a slippery slope that can lead to a dangerous erosion of our democratic values. It is not the role of the government to dictate what books our children can or cannot read, as this is a decision that should be left to parents and educators.

I urge you to reject this bill and to uphold the principles of free speech and education that are so essential to our democracy. Our children deserve nothing less than access to a rich and diverse array of literature, and any attempt to restrict this access is a step in the wrong direction.

Ronald Mitchell

Self

Howe, TX

Let kids in school not be subjected to garbage put out by society. Kids should remain innocent and not be subjected to what others think but what God thinks.

Amy Bearce

self: author, mother, and former teacher and librarian

Schertz, TX

This bill is not about protecting our children but is about controlling them and their families, based on the wishes of a small group of loud parents and outsiders. Trust our educators: trust our local parents to know their children; and support local government. School librarians have master's degrees in creating library collections that suit ALL members of their school community, not just one type of family. The books that have been targeted in this state are clearly due to political ideological disagreements rather than inappropriate sexual content or other inappropriate content for specific ages. This bill is a blatant overreach of power by "big government" which is unwelcome in our state and unbecoming of our elected officials. We do not support censorship. The Supreme Court decided many years ago that students maintain their First Amendment rights to access information without regard to the ideology presented in materials. Schools already have collection development programs as well as reconsideration policies in place. Parents can always say no to their child or teen reading a book. What they should not be able to do is tell MY child or teen which books they can and cannot access. Our school librarians and teachers are PROFESSIONALS. Treat them as such. This bill is insulting to educators and librarians and publishers of children's and teen's literature.

Rachel DiMasi

Self/LMSW

Austin, TX

I am a parent of two children in RRISD. This bill is interfering with my right to parent my children how I see fit. I support Texas school librarians who are highly trained professional educators that select books based on local policies, approved by our school board. I trust school librarians, not out-of-state vendors, to determine if content in books is appropriate. And parents, not the state, are responsible for determining what their children read. I vehemently oppose HB 900.

Patrick Thompson

Self and children

San Antonio, TX

We must eliminate filthy books to protect our kids!!!

Kenneth Fiduk

Self/Software Engineer

Austin, TX

I am a parent of two children currently in RRISD. This bill infringes on my right to parent as I see fit. I support Texas school librarians who are highly trained professional educators that select books based on local policies, approved by our school board. I trust school librarians, not out-of-state vendors, to determine if content in books is appropriate. And parents, not the state, are responsible for determining what their children read. I am appalled by the intended overreach of the Texas legislature and I vehemently oppose HB 900.

Steve May

Self / Retired

Houston, TX

I support HB900. There should be no place for sexually explicit books in our public school libraries.

Nicole Cato

None/ Personal

Leander, TX

For HB 900

Amy Mazeika
Self
San Antonio, TX

For HB, remove and prevent any sexually explicit books sold or made available in our schools .

Dana Reichman
Self, social worker
Austin, TX

As a former school social worker and a current therapist to LGBTQ youth, I know how important it is for children and teens to be able to see themselves and their families represented in the books and media available in their school libraries. I strongly oppose this bill that is nothing but censorship and will limit the access of youth to media that reflects their lives and affirms their existence.

Paul Mazeika
Self
San Antonio, TX

I am for this bill to remove sexually explicit books from public schools.

Jennifer Cross, Dr.
self
Frisco, TX

I am against HB 900. I largely trust our professional school librarians to choose appropriate books for students, and understand that I have the power as a parent to assert my children may not read certain books if I tell the school to not let them check them out. It is governmental overreach to restrict books for ALL students based on what only some deem inappropriate.

Michael Stolle, Mr
self - retired engineer
Houston, TX

I strongly support HB900 because it prohibits harmful, sexually explicit materials in public schools.

Kim Snyder-Jackson
Self - Parent of 4 and Voting Member of Texas
Austin, TX

As a parent, I am strongly OPPOSED TO HB 900. The State should not have control over which books can be purchased by school districts nor should they require vendors to rate books. Books should be selected and order at the local level. State censorship and control has no place within our school districts and as a parent, I strongly encourage each of you to vote against HB 900.

Laura Gutierrez
OWLS
Mission, TX

Ban porn materials in our schools and local libraries.

Elizabeth Craig
Self
Driftwood, TX

Say no to HB 900. Please allow the professional librarians who are educated in library science to continue to be the ones who determine which books get in our schools, not over-reaching government bureaucrats with no library or educational experience.

Jenna Stout

Self, stay at home mama

Conroe, TX

I support this bill wholeheartedly. I have three children, one in high school, one in fifth grade, and my kinder who is homeschooled. I read every book my daughter brings home from the library; I've already come across one that pushes trans ideology and has images of drug abuse far above her age level. Parents shouldn't have to read everything their child brings home from school to keep them safe. That expectation used to be the bare minimum, but no longer. Please help parents protect their kids; help school districts focus on what is important. Pass HB900.

Lois McDougall

Self (Retired)

Little Elm, TX

I support HB 900 to remove sexually explicit books from the public school libraries

Zenobia C. Joseph, Educator

Self

Austin, TX

Against HB 900

1. Save Lives: Books give PRECIOUS Black students agency.
2. “Sec. 33.021. LIBRARY STANDARDS. . . . 'sexually explicit material' means any communication, language, or material, including a written description, photographic image, video image, or audio file, excluding library material directly related to required curriculum[.]”
3. Balance Competing Interests: Is it “patently offensive” for a student to experience incest? Is anatomy and physiology “sexually explicit material,” including venereal diseases shown on genitalia? Require “school book vendors” to categorize books based on “sexually explicit” key words (e.g., incest, venereal diseases) with associated Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills—state curriculum. Librarians shall then post vendors’ lists in alphabetical order—searchable by author, book title, and key words.
4. Black Scholars/Mental Health: Where do you draw the line? How do Texas legislators want teachers to help a student who shares “sexually explicit” lived experiences, including incest?

a. Precious (movie): Based on Sapphire’s novel Push, “‘Precious’ goes where not even the usual depictions of black dysfunction usually go. The protagonist, Claireece ‘Precious’ Jones, is sexually abused by her father—and her mother. Her father impregnates her twice and infects her with an STD that eventually kills him” (The Root, Nov 13, 2009).

b. Will Texas legislators ban Toni Morrison and James Baldwin, too? A Google search for “Toni Morrison’s Bluest Eye incest” includes:

(1) May 11, 2021 jmorgan: “Pecola, the eleven-year-old raped by her father Cholly, is driven mad by her father's assaults and her mother's refusal to believe what happened[.]”

<https://libraries.clemson.edu/press/2021/05/11/quiet-as-its-kept-how-the-bluest-eye-inaugurated-a-new-genre-of-fiction-50-years-ago/>

(2) Clemson University Author Post: “‘Quiet as it’s kept,’ How the Bluest Eye Inaugurated a New Genre of Fiction 50 Years Ago”

(3) Incestuous Relationship in Toni Morrison's The Bluest Eye: “This paper critically rereads Toni Morrison's The Bluest Eye to understand Pecola Breedlove's stance about incestuous relationship.”

(4) Revising the Incest Story: Toni Morrison’s The Bluest Eye and James Baldwin’s Just Above My Head (Lynn Orilla Scott, 2006).

c. Would Alice Walker be banned from Texas school libraries, too? A Google search for "Alice Walker the Color Purple incest .edu" includes:

(1) Alice Walker, “The Color Purple” -The Banned Books Project, Carnegie Mellon University.

(2) September 11, 2019 — “Unsurprisingly, Walker's novel has been criticized for including controversial material such as homosexuality, violence, explicit language.”

(3) Writing a Rationale for a Controversial Common Reading Book: Alice Walker's "The Color Purple" Pepper Worthington, The English Journal; Vol. 74, No. 1 (Jan., 1985), pp. 48-52 (5 pages); National Council of Teachers of English.

Thanks!

Jenny Guttormson

self; mother

Leander, TX

I'm a parent of a 5th grader & 7th grader in Leander. First, we have a district process to review books, as well as we already have an ability for parents to protest for a book's removal. Second, I approve that many books are available in the library, but do not need to be part of the curriculum. This offers additional choose and control over material while allowing appropriate access. Third, when my middle schooler does study a book in ELA, I receive an email prior to their book selection. The email typically contains a list of approximately 20 books available for my child to choose from. It includes their descriptions, reviews, and links to more info. I feel it is in the parent's best interest to help choose an appropriate book, and not the State. I have more than enough time to research the books and to see if there are any concerns for me or my student. I have the means to discuss my concerns with the teacher, and again do not need the state to intervene. HB900 limits the books available to my children in their libraries, based on vague subjective criteria of appropriateness. For many high schoolers, some of these books are imperative to their development and acceptance allowing them to read stories that articulating how they were feeling and what they are going through. While I do think that books should be appropriate to the school level library (elementary vs. middle vs. high school), I trust the librarians, the district, and the parents to best review for appropriateness. I trust our local district & community processes to work to ensure the best opportunities for my children to get a well rounded understanding of the world and life thru their reading. Please vote AGAINST HB900.