

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMPILATION OF PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Submitted to the Committee on State Affairs

For HB 3225

Compiled on: Monday, April 14, 2025 8:28 PM

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: April 14, 2025 8:00 AM

Krystal Barber

Self

New Braunfels, TX

As a public school parent - Remove sex books and content in schools and from allowing them to check it out

Misty Reed

Self, Licensed Acupuncturist

Austin, TX

I oppose this bill.

Val Turnbow

Self

Lucad, TX

Please SUPPORT HB 3225 .. please stop the sexualization of our children in Texas. Thank you

Christin Bentley

Republican Party of Texas (State Republican Executive Committeewoman, SD1)

Winona, TX

Please vote Yes on HB 3225. Children should not be exposed to sexually explicit content, which depicts sexual acts in graphic detail, in the minor's sections of their public libraries. Libraries should not be places of sexual grooming, which leads to sexual exploitation of children. This bill does not remove adult content from the library, but rather puts adult content in the appropriate section of the library. That is common sense. The state has a compelling interest to protect children from sexual grooming. Act today and vote yes on HB 3225.

Brenda Lackey

Self

Spring Branch, TX

Pass, this bill needs to pass to protect our children. It's a sad day in America that it's even a question.

Dale Inman

Self (SREC MEMBER- SD4)

CONROE, TX

Please vote to pass this important legislation to protect children from harmful materials. Courts have long held that children are a class of individuals that need additional safeguards in their developmental growth concerning sexually explicit, sexual imagery, role-playing, fantasy, written communication, and other communicable forms of harmful materials. Parents have the option to judge for themselves when these ideas are appropriate to introduce to their children. The public domain is not the appropriate forum to make these decisions. Nor should taxpayers be obligated to fund, house, or maintain harmful materials that conflict with their local community standards. Please vote to pass HB 3225.

Kelsey Batelaan

Self

Georgetown, TX

I am in favor of this bill as children do not need access to sexually explicit content

George Brandon

Self. Retired

Chandler, TX

I support HB 3225. Minors, regardless of their sexual persuasion, should be able to access sexually explicit materials in any library. Equality can be had when the person is no longer a minor and is hopefully more able to make decisions about their lifestyle.

Vanessa Brown

A retired teacher

New Braunfels, TX

Vote yes!!!!Protect of the innocent minds of your kids!

From a retired educator!

Steven Martin

Self. Fire Protection Consultant

New Braunfels, TX

"I am in favor of this bill as children do not need access to sexually explicit content"

Sharon Mosley

Self

New Braunfels, TX

I am in favor of this bill. Children do not need to exposed to sexually explicit material.

Jennifer Finch
Self - Librarian
Houston, TX

Items in public libraries have been misconstrued. We do not carry books that meet the legal definition of obscene. Also, public libraries are not responsible for what books minors check out. We leave that parenting task strictly up to the parents. What this bill will do, as it has in Idaho, is restrict access to public libraries to anyone under the age of 18. Smaller, rural libraries which are already under threat of closure due to the loss of federal grants will have to close its doors to minors when unaccompanied by an adult as they will not be able to afford the possible litigation if a child accesses a book a parent or other adult finds objectionable. This also restricts parents rights. For example, my mother actually purchased adult romance novels for me and was well aware I was checking them out from the library when I was 13 years old. She was not present with me when I checked out these items. By prohibiting access, you are restricting access of books by Toni Morrison to 17 year olds. The truth of the matter is that public librarians cannot watch children and teens while they are in the library. We are too busy and there are too few of us. We have self check machines for the convenience of all of our patrons. There is no way to restrict minor's access without blocking minors from entering without their parent or guardian. So kid's who would come after school while waiting for their parent's to pick them up would have to find a new safe place. Teens who need to work on reports or just come in for books would have to wait for their parents to be off work. And that is if their parents are available during the hours the library is open. eBooks? Gone. We would not be able to restrict minors from accessing them. Be ready to explain that to your constituents.

Danielle Niesner
Self- Procurement Specialist
Georgetown, TX

I am in favor of this bill as children do not need access to sexually explicit content

Nuala Deely
Self
New Braunfels, TX

I am in favor of this bill at children do not need access to sexually explicit content.

Brittney Flores
self
georgetown, TX

I am in favor of this bill as children do not need access to sexually explicit content.

Leah Lukasik
Self
NEW BRAUNFELS, TX

We should never have sexual explicit content in our schools no books movies online content not in schools not in libraries

Dina Walker
Self
New Braunfels, TX

Yes in favor

Cj Hooper
Self
New Braunfels, TX

I am in favor of this bill as children do not need access to sexually explicit content

David Waldrip
My self
New Braunfels, TX
Yes

Brittney Bower
Self Registered Dietitian
Kingsville, TX

This bill is an overreach and does not give specific parameters for what is deemed sexually explicit. Parents should be the deciding factor in what their child should consume, not the government. This bill does not represent the best interest of the people, rather relies on buzz words to scare citizens into compliance. This bill implies that there is highly inappropriate material provided in the public library system, readily available for children's consumption. In reality this bill can far overreach and encompass things like educational materials and omitting subjects such as diverse family dynamics (LGBTQ representation), sexual education, and PG rated "crush" topics. This is a broad and nonspecific bill that limits materials excessively and attempts erasure of key topics that don't subordinate to puritanical, antiquated views.

Jacob Waldrip
Personal
Stockdale, Tx, 78160, TX

I am in favor of this bill as children do not need access to sexually explicit content.

Laura Giles
Self
Lucas, TX

Children should be protected from obscene material when in public spaces. It used to be that obscene material would have black coverings to protect unsuspecting community members from seeing obscene material. Now our own public libraries proudly display titles with known obscene content front and center when every member of the public walks in - including children - without a choice to choose if they want to see it. The intent of this bill is to protect the youngest in our communities and I fully support HB3225.

Lou Viergever
Myself
Whitehouse, TX

Please remove sexually explicit materials from the children's section of public libraries. These should be located in adult sections. Thank you for helping protect our children.

Sharon Mineo
Self, Admin
Austin, TX

I oppose this bill. This same language has been used in school boards across the state to restrict access to stories about LGBTQIA lives - this book ban is a part of a much larger, thinly veiled effort to erase the existence of queer people in this state/country, couched in language about "protecting children." As they say, historically, the regimes on the side of book bans are never the good guys.

Danielle Peterson
Danielle Peterson
Georgetown, TX

I am in favor of this bill as children do not need access to sexually explicit content.

Michael Murphy

Myself

Comal, TX

No pornography should be allowed at any school or library in the state of Texas under the guise of education

Erika Hatfield, Mrs

Self

Rockwall, TX

I strongly support HB 3225 because it prioritizes the safety and innocence of Texas children by ensuring that sexually explicit materials are not accessible in public library sections designated for minors. This bill empowers parents and communities by establishing clear guidelines for content review, transparency through public posting of policies, and accountability for libraries that fail to comply. HB 3225 is not about censorship—it's about common sense protections that reflect the values of Texas families. By shielding minors from age-inappropriate content while preserving adult access, this legislation strikes the right balance between protecting children and preserving intellectual freedom.

Jennifer Lauzon

Self

San Antonio, TX

I am in favor of this bill as children do not need access to sexually explicit content

Maddie O'Leary

Republican

Brock, TX

I am in favor of this bill as children do not need access to sexually explicit content.

David Samsel

Self / parent / small business owner

Post, TX

I vote yes, our children do not need to be exposed to sexual content

Vincent Aramendia

Self

Seguin, TX

Yes in favor. I am in favor of this bill as children do not need access to sexually explicit content

David Sundin

self

Tyler, TX

This is just micromanagement and control by politicians in Austin. This bill won't make anyone safer and will be used only to beat local librarians over the head. I trust the professionalism of local librarians; politicians in Austin, no so much.

Francine Erickson

Self

Georgetown, TX

I in favor of HB3225.

Tara Brown
Self
San Antonio, TX

I'm for protecting minors for explicit sexual materials in our public libraries!!!

Raleigh Rahe
Self
New Braunfels, TX

"I am in favor of this bill as children do not need access to sexually explicit content"

Carolyn Mitchell, Rev.
Self
Conroe, TX

April 14, 2025

Please vote against HB 3225 that would prevent libraries from curating or displaying many important books in teen and children's sections, including sex-education materials, young adult novels, and even classic literature and art books. Please vote against this bill HB 3225 that would force libraries to implement costly, impractical segregation of books and spaces, or risk legal consequences. Restrict youth from accessing the general collection—even for school assignments or research. Parents - not the government - should determine what books are and are not appropriate for their own children to read.

Please vote NO!

Thank you,
Rev. Carolyn Mitchell
April 14, 2025

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Please vote NO!

Thank you,
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Please vote NO!

Thank you,
Rev. Carolyn Mitchell

Jordan Kulaga
Self - teacher
Whitehouse, TX

This is a common sense proposal that is being maligned by its opponents, who don't possess the intellectual capabilities to understand that moving books to a different section of a library is not equivalent to banning them. The books in question are still readily available in any bookstore - and even in the library - they just won't be sitting next to Pete the Cat or Charlotte's Web. The fact this even needs to be introduced in a bill and isn't being done by librarians on their own initiative is frankly disconcerting. I applaud those who are already doing this work, and encourage them to hold the line.

Michelle Sloan
Self
Georgetown, TX

This will lead to the restriction of books in children and young adult sections of the library. It will force libraries to implement costly segregation of books and potentially block access to students working on school projects.
Libraries may err on the side of caution and remove books that otherwise would not be removed.
This could lead to decreased access to library resources.
It could also impact library funding.
I think parents are the best at controlling what their kids read and we should not yield this decision to the state legislature.

Haley Ceh
Self
Saint Hedwig, TX

I am in favor of this bill as children do not need access to sexually explicit content!

David Stein
Chairman Smith County Republican Party Representing myself (Office Pride of East Texas) Small Business Owner
Tyler, TX

I am speaking in favor of this bill. I have been working with our local City Council for more than two years on this issue with little success. After an initial meeting and several additional communication which I had hoped would be productive, I resorted to individual book appeals (following the requested process of the city) asking for those with explicit sexual content to be moved to the adult section of the library, making it inaccessible to 14 year olds. I repeat "moved" not "removed". I saw a recent hearing where Rep. Wes Virdell was asked not to use the word "balls". I can assure you, the readings of these books would elicit a much stronger response in this committee from the chair, you most likely ask me not to read the specific wording written in this book's pages. Graphic descriptions of sexual acts as a badge of honor occurs on a regular basis. The Haters by Jess Andrews is one I asked to be reviewed. This book displays the culture of "sex, drugs and rock and roll", describes sexual events consistently through its pages and is described as a "coming of ages" for teenagers. Even the response I received from the panel who reviewed these stated "The panel would like for the Tyler Public Library to consider adding sticker recommendations to every book that doesn't encompass the entire age range of the Young Adult section. Something similar to the ESRB ratings on video games". THE ENTIRE AGE RANGE is exactly what the crux of this discussion is about. The panel recommended to leave the book in the young adult section(14-24) yet admits it may not be appropriate for "all" ages in that section. Putting a sticker on the book is putting a band aid on the issue. I am disappointed that my city would not take stronger action and move this book to a more age appropriate section and request you pass this bill out of committee so it can be heard on the house floor.

Jessica Melott
Self
New Braunfels, TX

I am in favor of this bill as children do not need access to sexually explicit content.

Peyton Brown
Self
New Braunfels, TX

I am in favor of this bill as children do not need access to sexually explicit content

Sara Pearce
Self
New Braunfels, TX

Please support this bill. Take the sexual content out of schools.

Laurel Maynard, Ms.

Self

Lindale, TX

As a long time supporter of libraries and the right to information, I appreciate how this bill handled the issue of explicit materials in the children's sections of libraries. I have spoken for a long time that this is the exact sort of solution we need.

Eloisa Perez-Lozano

Self, Community Outreach Coordinator

League City, TX

Hi, my name is Eloisa. I am writing to oppose HB3225 that is being heard by the State Affairs Committee this morning. For years, we have been told that books being removed from public school libraries and classrooms, are not book bans, because parents and students can find those books at their local public library. Now, this bill is proposing to restrict our kids' access to books in our local public libraries, too. As the bill is written, there is not even an option for parents to opt out of the restricted access for their own children. If certain parents don't want their children to read certain books, then they need to be with their children and reviewing the literature their children picks up instead of restricting all other parents from being able to access literature that highly-educated and trained librarians have decided are appropriate for other children. If a parent doesn't like a book for their children, all they need to do is not check it out and leave it for someone else to find. Parents- not the government- should determine what books are and are not appropriate for their own children to read. Literature should be available for all to review and pick which book works for each child and family. Please protect Texas parent's rights, and vote "no" on HB 3225.

Nicole Rapp

Self

New Braunfels, TX

I am in favor of this bill. Children to not need access to explicit content

Alyssa Ceh

Self

New Braunfels, TX

NEXT,

We need help to get online comment voting in favor of this bill to keep it alive to get it passed through committee and onto the floor.

Will you please click this link, scroll down to Bill 3225, by Representative Alders, vote YES IN FAVOR of the bill and leave this comment:

I am in favor of this bill as children do not need access to sexually explicit content

Tricia Hunter

Self

Winona, TX

It should be separated from the children's section

P Chris Burns

Solomon's Porch Ministries

New Braunfels, TX

I ask that this bill pass eliminating childrens access to the sexually explicit material in all state libraries.

Shelley Sallee

Self

Austin, TX

Hello,

As the daughter of a public school librarian, I vehemently oppose this bill. My mother had to draw diapers on a baby in a completely innocent, sweet book where a baby's behind showed. She had to fight to keep a book that had black and white rabbits holding hands over those who thought it encouraged interracial marriage. Librarians do not want fights. When they stand up for things it is because they are standing against extremists who often have political agendas. Keep viewpoint diversity safe and oppose this bill. Sincerely, Dr. Shelley Sallee

Callie Kanouff

Self

New Braunfels, TX

"I am in favor of this bill as children do not need access to sexually explicit content"

Chet Thomas

Thomas, Chet

Hideaway, TX

I agree and support Representative Alders in the protection of children by removing sexually explicit material (as defined by law) from the children's section of public libraries and relocated to more appropriate locations.

Sherry Marchand

Citizen

New Braunfels, TX

I am in favor of this bill as children do not need access to sexually explicit content.

Cora Allen-Savietta

Self

Austin, TX

I'm writing to urge my representatives to oppose this bill, which is a significant threat to free speech.

Sarah Gardner

Self/Librarian

Houston, TX

The public library is meant to be for everyone. Public libraries already have collection policies in place as well as forms that allow the public to submit book titles for reconsideration. Library policies assume that it is a parent or guardian's responsibility to monitor their child while they are in a public space, such as the library, and not the library's job to restrict access to materials.

Jeshua Shuttlesworth

Self

Schertz, TX

I am in Favor of this bill as children do not need access to sexually explicit content

Elizabeth Ray

self

Austin, TX

I am against HB 3225. This bill challenges the First Amendment by being content based vs. content neutral. While age-appropriate materials are important, parents have the right to guide their children's reading, listening, and viewing choices but not to restrict access for anyone else. It seems disingenuous for the current Texas administration and many lawmakers to promote parental choice via vouchers for education, but not to trust these same parents to guide their children's access to reading and media materials. Also, if we're honest with each other, a public library already has far less risk of exposure to the targeted content than any given day on free, over-the-air, commercial radio or television or uncountable numbers of websites.

Restricting access to library materials with a vaguely worded, potentially broadly interpreted law limits the learning process and can stifle critical thinking. In addition to putting burdensome policing responsibilities on already over-tasked public librarians, these proposed restrictions undermine intellectual freedom and the right to access information, which are fundamental to a free and democratic society. Libraries, as public spaces, should offer a diverse range of perspectives and ideas, allowing individuals to explore different viewpoints and form their own opinions.

Kermit Heaton, Mr.

Myself

Georgetown, TX

I strongly support HB 3225. Our public libraries should be safe environments for children, including teens – free from sexually explicit material. This bill provides clear standards and accountability, ensuring taxpayer dollars aren't funding inappropriate content for minor children. Please vote YES on HB 3225 and help make Texas libraries family friendly.

Kevin Ayres

Self

Frisco, TX

I am IN FAVOR of this bill because children should always be protected from sexually explicit content. Please vote to pass HB 3225.

James Walker

Self

New Braunfels, TX

Yes! Children do not need access to pornography in public libraries.

Jason Mendez

Self

San Antonio, TX

I am in favor of this bill as children do not need access to sexually explicit content

Christie kaminski Kaminski

Caney Creek Aesthetics

Conroe, TX

I strongly support this bill-clean up our libraries for our young people.

Joshua Salinas

Self

Schertz, TX

I am in favor of this bill as children do not need access to sexually explicit content.

Margie Cleere
self
Whitehouse, TX

Dear Rep. Alders and all members of the House,
Thank you for taking the time to vote on this bill. You have our children's innocence in your hands. As you know, once a child sees an image, reads a story, hears anything, etc. It cannot be undone. The sexually explicit materials that have been put in our local libraries are extremely harmful to them. Please do not allow this content to be made available in the public spaces that are supposed to be safe for them.

Abigail Reisman
Self - Remote Customer Service
The Colony, TX

As a child, one of my favorite parts of the week was the weekly visit to my local library. I loved getting books from the children's section, as well as playing with the toy blocks there. I attribute the library to my lifelong love of reading and learning. It's crucial all children have access to the library so they can learn and have books to read and enjoy.

Susan Vanzandt
Self customer service
New Braunfels, TX

I am in favor of this bill. Children do not need access to sexually explicit material. We need to protect them

Robin Sharpton
self
Austin, TX

I am against HB 3225. This is more censorship which never works, and is almost always in pursuit of something that is not the mentioned topic. Education and access to ideas over censorship and this bill is not going to accomplish the access of sexually explicit material by minors it will hurt libraries and access to ideas.

Cody Ceh
Self
Saint Hedwig, TX

I am in favor of this bill as children do not need access to sexually explicit content

Kari Trice
Self
Canyon, TX

My name is Kari Trice and I am representing myself and I am submitting public comment FOR HB 3225. We absolutely need to prohibit access of sexually explicit material to minors in ALL public libraries, municipal, public school, all of them!

Janice Lackey
Self/retired
Fair Oaks Ranch, TX

Plain and simple, IT'S JUST WRONG and why can't it sink in right is right and wrong is wrong!

Patricia Henry
Self retired
North Zulch, TX

We have a responsibility to protect our children from sexually explicit material. I ask you to support and vote for this bill

Mary Noe, Mrs.
Self- Cohabitational Engineer
Arlington, TX

We need to move sexually explicit material from children's accessibility in our public libraries. It is absolutely ridiculous that we are even having to discuss this topic.

Rebecca Gingrich
Self
Abilene, TX

"I am IN FAVOR because children should be protected from content that is harmful to them AND never forget the Lord's Word promises to never return Void. I am IN FAVOR because children should be protected from content that is harmful to them".
Whatever we permit to enter our mind THROUGH our eyes will surely be manifested

Carol Everett
Self
Round Rick, TX

Children should be afforded protection from sexually explicit material. I am in favor of this nilk.

Patricia Bohlender, Ms
Myself
Canyon, TX

I support the removal of all sexually explicit materials from Libraries!!

Alexandra Lackey, Mrs.
Self
Spring Branch, TX

I am in favor of this bill as children do not need access to sexual explicit content

Marty Hiles
Christian Empowerment Advocates
New Braunfels, TX

Children should not be exposed to the hardcore porn books illustrated to attract them. These books are groomer books to encourage children to accept the transgender lifestyle. Transgender procedures are child mutilation of sexual organs where none can reproduction denying them of a happy family life. Let kids be kids & enjoy a normal childhood. Porn books for children is a violation of God's Law.

Etoy Glenn, Mrs
Self
Bulverde, TX

I am in favor of this bill as children do not need access to explicit sexual content

John van Compernelle
Self
Mineola, TX

I'm registering FOR this bill.
It should common sense! Since it doesn't seem to be among our school libraries, you must pass this bill.

Vivian Rutledge

Self, Retired

Richardson, TX

I am against HB 3225. Public librarians are trained to review and select among thousands of materials for use by the general public. Because America is a democracy founded on freedom, we as Americans should have the right to choose what to read. Parents have the responsibility to monitor what they and their children read. It is not the government's job to choose for us. Doing otherwise is censorship and goes against everything this country fought for.

Raymond WINTER

self/retired

AMARILLO, TX

My name is Raymond Winter and I represent myself. I am submitting public comment FOR HB 3225. Please pass this HB today to protect minors from sexually explicit materials in public libraries.

Nickki Cluck Reimer

Self - Health Care

Canyon, TX

I am

Voting for HB 3225. Explicit materials should not be paid for by tax dollars. Explicit materials are not allowed in our public prisons and public libraries should follow these guidelines since they are funded by taxpayers.

GAIL WINTER

self/retired

AMARILLO, TX

My name is Gail Winter and I am representing myself. I am submitting a public comment FOR HB 3225. Please pass this bill to protect minors from sexually explicit materials in municipal libraries.

Lacey Mott

Self, homemaker

Caddo Mills, TX

I am in favor of this bill as children do not need access to sexually explicit content.

James Morrow

self

Seguin, TX

I am in favor of this bill as children do not need access to sexually explicit content.

Connie Morgan

Self retired

Amarillo, TX

I am submitting public comments FOR I am submitting public comments FOR HB 3225. Please vote to protect our children. Thank you.

Shannon Ayres

Self

Frisco, TX

I am writing to express my full support for HB 3225. In no world is it OK to provide sexually explicit content to children. The opposition will try to frame this as censorship, but that's simply not accurate. Censorship would be removing these materials entirely. This bill ensures the materials remain available in libraries – just properly placed in adult sections where they belong. Our libraries will continue to be wonderful places full of diverse ideas and perspectives. Requiring reasonable guardrails that respect the developmental stages of our children is common sense and something we, as a society, have done for a very long time. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Dennis Morgan

Self - retired

Amarillo, TX

I am submitting public comments for HB 3225. Please vote for this important bill. Thank you you.

Jacob Ceh

Self

New Braunfels, TX

This is disgusting. Children need their innocence and this gross act of allowing porn in the schools is stealing it from them.

Suzanne Fite, Mrs

Self

Troup, TX

I don't believe children should be able to see this material

Adam Flores

Self

Georgetown, TX

Yes, I vote in favor of this bill.

Joan austin, mrs

swlf

San Antonio, TX

I am in favor of Bill 3225. Please vote "yes" . Children do not need access to sexually explicit content.

Diana Richards

Self and Texas Education 911

Sherman, TX

FOR HB3225: The State of Texas has a compelling interest to protect children from harmful materials as outlined in Law. Taxpayers' dollars should never be used to purchase/provide sexually explicit materials for use by minor children - nor fund a facility actively providing & promoting those materials to children for that matter. HB3225 simply asks for sexually explicit materials to be removed from the section of the library that is accessible to minors. If an adult wishes to view and/or check out that material, then they can do so, but we must protect children from obscene material in public spaces. Over the decades, parents & grandparents & concerned citizens have had to stand up and speak out to protect children from harmful materials. We are not going to back down. There is never a reason to provide porn to kids.

MaryBeth Kenis, Mom, Wife, Entrepreneur

International Business Solutions

Lakeway, TX

I support this bill and commend you for fighting for our children and future generations.

Whitney Kenney

Self

Celina, TX

Obscene material should never be available to children when in public spaces. Children should be protected from this harmful content. I remember when an individual needed to seek out obscene content by going to a sex shop and purchasing harmful books, magazines, and visual materials with a valid drivers license to prove they were of age to make such a determination as to whether they wanted to expose their fully developed brain to that content, knowing it was harmful. As time went on black coverings were used in supermarket checkout stands to cover obscene and inappropriate images from the eyes of children. Now our own public schools and public libraries have large displays promoting titles which have a reputation for being banned for obscene content. These books often have misleading titles and summaries without warning labels exposing obscene content, and are often seen in window or table displays at local public libraries, school libraries, Barnes and Noble and on book racks at Walmart. As a mom of 4 sons, I've been shocked at the level of sexualized content I hear coming from my sons mouths or the mouths of their friends...content my husband and I have not taught them. A lot needs to be done to reverse and stop the oversexualization of Texas children. The intent of this bill is a step in the right direction to protect the minds of the most vulnerable and the next generation. We can either help fix the problem or contribute to it if nothing is done in our generation to stop this oversexualization. I am in favor of and fully support HB 3225.

Jimmy Pruitt, Pastor

Bridge Church Fredericksburg

Comfort, TX

I am in favor of this Bill to protect children from inappropriate and indecent materials in schools.

Jodi Davis

Self

Canyon, TX

I encourage everyone to vote for this bill. Canyon ISD had 5 sexually explicit books on their REQUIRED reading list for freshman. It took 3 years to have these books removed. During that time students read books about rape, molestation, explicit sexual encounters, they learned that they could use a ziplock baggie in lieu of a condom. If this bill does not pass, school will continue to give children content that they aren't allowed to see in a movie theater until they are 17. We must have higher standards of excellence.

Amber McGarry

Self- teacher

Amarillo, TX

For removing sexual material

Patricia Mikulencak

Self

Corpus Christi, TX

I'm in favor of this bill as children do not need access to sexually explicit content.

Suzanne Byars

Self

Hockley, TX

For

Taylor Alders

Self

Buda, TX

Passing this bill is an absolute no brainer for all parents who want the discussion of anatomy, sex, gender identity, transgender Ian among many other topics to remain the privilege of parents and parents only. Every parent, regardless of which side of the aisle, knows the discomfort of a child asking before they're ready "where do babies come from" or "how is a baby born?". Some vague answer usually ensues followed by, "let's talk about it when you're older." Answering these questions are necessary to children but only when the children are ready and it should be completely up to a parents' discretion as to when. It is not primarily the state's responsibility to educate our children by having these books in libraries only for an unsuspecting 3 year old to accidentally find and bring a book containing images of gay sex, hand jobs, and strap-ons asking "mommy what's this?" We are not requesting these books are "banned" as the media would want to scare you into believing. We are only asking they be moved to a different section of the library so parents can choose to expose their children to them or not and if so, at what age. This is a bill about basic parental rights and indecent exposure to minors through literature. Again.. a no-brainer.

Sean Healy, Attorney

Self (attorney)

Bullard, TX

Please enact HB 3225. Most bills are routine. This one is a matter of right and wrong: The government should not be providing obscene materials to children. The definition of "access" needs to include allowing a minor to possess or consume the material in any way, at any location. The current definition only prohibits checking out or being provided a copy of the material, which would allow them to review it on library premises.

Molly Husted

self

Arlington, TX

This is so important!! We need to protect our children from the world, not make them of it. These materials are encouraging our children to make adult decisions, and we need to let our children be children. Protect our children!!

Heather Morse

Terrace Elementary PTA

Houston, TX

Imposing mandatory restrictions on public library books for minors usurps my rights as a parent to educate my children in the way I see fit. I oppose this bill.

James Evans, Mr

Self

Athens, TX

Please immediately remove this pornographic material as it is nothing less a grooming mechanism used by pedophiles to confuse and abuse children.

Laura Weaver

Self

The Woodlands, TX

I am a mother, a grandmother and an avid reader. I believe that parents, not the government, should decide what books are available for their children. We do not need to have people telling us what is appropriate for our families. That is OUR job. Please vote against HB 3225.

Alannah Rivers

Self - college professor

Denton, TX

I am writing in opposition to this bill. Parents, not the state, should have the role of deciding what their child can read. As a child, I read at an advanced reading level. My parents and the librarians helped me locate material that was appropriately challenging, which meant reading in the adult section. I would also like to note that unlike then, most children today have unfettered access to online sources which contain misinformation and much more explicit content. A public library would be a much more appropriate place for them to learn about these topics than the internet - or even their peers.

Steven G. Kellman

self

Shavano Park, TX

I strongly oppose HB3225. Unrestricted access to the collections of a local public library made me what I am today - a professor of comparative literature who has taught for more than 50 years. We need to trust professional librarians to make acquisitions appropriate to their collections, and we need to trust library patrons of all ages to make their own discoveries. Especially in a small public library, it would be impractical to create a separate of books officially approved for young adults; the result might be a policy of not shelving any books that might be offensive for anyone - a clear violation of adult citizens' right to read. Furthermore, it is not clear how books are to be evaluated for sexual content and by whom. The Bible contains sexually explicit passages, as do literary masterpieces such as "Tale of the Genji," "Canterbury Tales," and "Ulysses." Book-banning is anathema to the principle of a free, enlightened society. Libraries exist to enrich, not impoverish, our experiences.

Autumn Chim

Self

Austin, TX

I am writing as a concerned Texas resident and avid public library patron, to express my strong opposition to House Bill 3225. This legislation poses a threat to intellectual freedom, undermines the essential role of libraries and librarians, and sets a dangerous precedent for censorship that will disproportionately harm vulnerable communities.

HB 3225's attempt to regulate library materials based on vague terms like "sexually explicit" is deeply problematic. Such language is inherently open to broad interpretation and potential misuse. This language is frequently weaponized to target materials featuring LGBTQIA+ characters, themes, and identities, conflating representation with inappropriate content. This inevitably leads to the removal of constitutionally protected materials, including valuable literature reflecting diverse human experiences, essential health information, and stories that provide vital affirmation and visibility for LGBTQIA+ youth. Censoring these stories under the guise of removing "explicit" material erases identities, fosters stigma, and denies young people crucial opportunities to see themselves reflected and understand the diverse world around them.

Furthermore, HB 3225 unjustly targets librarians, the trained professionals tasked with curating balanced collections. It discourages librarians from selecting potentially controversial but important materials, promotes self-censorship, and disrespects their professional expertise. Treating librarians as potential conduits of harm, rather than facilitators of knowledge, is counterproductive.

Libraries are cornerstones of democracy, providing equitable access to information for all. Decisions about materials appropriate for individual children are best left to parents and guardians, utilizing existing library policies, not dictated by overly broad state mandates that restrict access for everyone and targeting specific communities.

HB 3225 diverts resources towards policing bookshelves based on discriminatory applications of vague terms. It fosters an environment of fear and limits students' ability to engage with diverse perspectives necessary for empathy and navigating a complex world. I urge you to reject this harmful legislation.

Thank you for your consideration.

Anne Wynter

Self - Author

Austin, TX

As an avid reader, a parent of avid readers, a frequent library user, and an author, this bill is very concerning to me. An extreme attack on the freedom to read, this bill is open to such broad interpretation that it could restrict access to a huge number of books (including the dictionary, which has been banned for "sexual content" in the past). If the writers of this bill have legitimate concerns about sexual content, why make an exception for religious texts?

Like most parents, I want my kids to read more, not less. I want them to have increased access to books, not restricted access. I want our family to be able to make decisions about what's appropriate for our kids to read. I don't want this decision made for me by a small number of extremists. At a time when kids' reading scores have been steadily declining, we should be supporting our libraries. Instead, this bill is a blatant attack on libraries, librarians, and - worst of all - our children.

Jennifer Martinez
self/ student support assistant
El Paso, TX

I am writing to ask you to vote no to this bill. Due to how vague this law can be. Who will be setting the restrictions? This can be a very slippery and restrictive slope. As books have many themes, subject, and morals which may contain some content that someone will not like and find too "explicit" when in context it is not. Teens need books that are not restricted to learn more about the world, empathy and about themselves; because let's be honest many teenagers are restricted to school and home. I was unrestricted in book selection as I grew up. I was reading above my grade level and Excelled in my studies. This bill would restrict higher level readers because higher level books would be in the "restricted or adult" section. This could stunt learning as well as creating close minded adults. Children below the age of 13 a parent can easily check the books for their child and make sure it is something their child will like and appropriate. This bill would take that away from parents who know their child their best. This bill would control what students learn as that would be determined by someone who has no knowledge of each individual child with simply stating that they are "explicit". This bill is simply another form of book banning and shouldn't be passed.

Donna Irwin
Self
Canyon lake, TX

Yes in favor of this Bill. As Children do not need access to sexually explicit content.

Eric Etzler
Self, construction management
New Braunfels, TX

I am in favor of this bill as children do not need access to sexually explicit content.

Nicole Walters
Protectors of children
Richmond, TX

Yes I am in favor of this bill. Only pedophiles and mentally disturbed sickos would think children should have access to sexually explicit content. Let kids be kids! It's the job of sane adults to keep perverts away from them!

Melissa Albracht
Self
Amarillo, TX

My name is Melissa Albracht and I am representing myself. I am FOR HB 3225! Protect children from sexually explicit content in our public libraries.

Kaitlin Davis
Self - Administrative Assistant
Canyon Lake, TX

I am in favor of this bill as children do not need access to sexually explicit content

Clare Galipeau, Ms
Self
Tyler, TX

Keep smut out of our libraries and schools!!! Vote yes!!!

Pamela Cookson, Mrs

Self

Flint, TX

Please pass this bill to protect our children. Us tax payers do not approve our funds for sexually explicit pornography books.

Cynthia Barstow, Ms

Self

New Braunfels, TX

I am in favor of this bill as children don't need access to sexually explicit content.

Maria Quintanilla

Self

Schertz, TX

I am in favor of this bill as children do not need access to sexually explicit content

Cynthia Gonzalez

Myself

San Antonio, TX

I am in favor of this bill as children don't need access to sexually explicit material

Amy Pottinger, Mrs.

Self

New Braunfels, TX

"I am in favor of this bill as children do not need access to sexually explicit content"

Deanna Lynch

Self

Boerne, TX

I am in favor of this bill as children do not need access to sexually explicit content.

Lauren Hartley

Myself

Magnolia, TX

Yes in favor of the bill

Linda Swaim

Self

Marion, TX

I am in favor of this bill as children do not need access to sexually explicit content"

John Allen

Self

Midland, TX

Get this pornography books out of spaces where minors can see them! Why r our tax dollars even paying for this?

Orpha Berry
Self
Midland, TX

In favor of this bill because minors do not need access to any sexually explicit or pervasively vulgar content of pornography in public libraries paid by taxpayers.

Randy Purham
Self
Austin, TX

Good morning Chairman and members of this committee. I am Randy Purham, member of the State Republican Executive Committee for Senate District 21, Political Consultant, and Podcast Host, and I am writing this testimony for myself. I am in full support of HB 3225 for the simple fact that sexually explicit content has always been against the law as accessible for children under the age of 18, and such material only promotes and provides ideations for depravity and early sexual activity resulting in unwanted pregnancies, diseases, and second and third order implications on public and community resources as a result.

Studies have already shown that our children are lacking in the skill sets necessary to compete in academics, but we have educators who rather fill the shelves and classrooms with sexual content rather than educational content that will make these kids productive and effective contributors to society. There's a time and a place to learn about sex education and parents should play a vital role in determining when their children are ready to explore that path, not activists and groomers who are looking to churn out their next set of victims in the hallways and classrooms of the public school system.

I encourage you all to pass this bill out of committee. Thank you.

Katherine Regis
self - engineer
Wimberley, TX

I oppose HB 3225. This bill appears to cover only sexually explicit books, but this language is often used to ban books with LGBTQIA content or even books just outside the mainstream power structure. We have the first amendment because our founders valued freedom of thought. Queer students need to be able to access books that reflect their lived experiences. No more book bans in Texas schools.

Cynthia Allison, Ms.
Self General Manager, Retail Store in Amarillo
Amarillo, TX

My name is Cynthia Allison and I am representing myself. I'm submitting public comment for HB3225. Children are our most precious resource. Texas needs to protect children from sexually explicit content in libraries and public places. I am against HB3225.

Amanda Freeman
Self
New braunfels, TX

"I am in favor of this bill as children do not need access to sexually explicit content

Andrea Gonzalez, Mrs.
Self
New Braunfels, TX

YES I am in favor of this bill to protect children against the easy access to sexually explicit content. They literally have not even developed rational thought to navigate through all the confusion this brings.

Randi Ceh

Self

New Braunfels, TX

I am in favor of this bill as children do not need sexually explicit content.

Anne Newman

self

Boerne, TX

I support HB 3225. No child should be exposed to pornography. It sexualizes children, and it is addictive. Pornography is fueling sexual molestation and sexual assault, even older children on young children.

Randal Fernandez

Self / Safety Director

New Braunfels, TX

I am in favor of this bill. Children do not need access to sexually explicit content.

Rita Kasper, Self

Self

Shiner, TX

I am in favor of this bill as children DO NOT need excess to sexual explicit material.

Trine Fernandez

Self / Regional Safety Director

Canyon Lake, TX

I am in favor of this bill as children do not need access to sexually explicit content.

Elizabeth Backstrom

Self

Spring Branch, TX

Protect Texas Children; no access to sexually explicit content for children.

Tyler Williamson

Self

San Antonio, TX

I am in favor of this bill as children do not need access to sexually explicit content

Amy Schumacher
Self, attorney & civic volunteer
Bastrop, TX

I am writing today to urge you to strongly oppose Texas HB3225, which will be presented before your State Affairs committee on April 14, 2025. This bill is problematic because it attacks access to books in public libraries.

It's ambiguous language--it does not include a definition of "sexually explicit"---invites the State to unconstitutionally overstep public access library materials.

It also disrespects parents' abilities and rights to supervise their children's access to educational materials.

It would be impractical to implement, resulting in a over-restrictive environment that would limit anyone under 18 from accessing materials. beyond the children's/teen/YA sections. Again, decisions about that kind of access are best left to parents/guardians and not the State of Texas.

Additionally, this bill penalizes small and rural libraries that may not have the resources to segregate materials in the manner this bill would require.

I strongly urge you to vote against HB3225.

Amy Schumacher
Treasurer
Friends of the Bastrop Public Library

Richard Kasper
self
College Station, TX

I support this bill to protect young children from explicit materials.

Laney Hawes

Self. Mother to 4 children under 18 and we frequent our public libraries.

FORT WORTH, TX

HB 3225 is extreme government overreach, a violation of my children's first amendments rights, and it encroaches on my parental rights. This bill is another regulatory nightmare that will do NOTHING to "protect children." It's an utter waste of time and resources and It's not actually about keeping sexually explicit material away from children- otherwise there would be no exceptions written into the bill- like there is for religious texts. Either context matters or it doesn't. Why give an exception for one type of material but no others? Because this is about state control of ideas, families, and communities.

Absolutely no one wants obscene content available to minors in libraries (or anywhere). But this bill goes way beyond that. As mother raising 4 incredible children in Texas, I am sick and tired of the government telling me what my children can and can't have access to. Public libraries are public places that I can allow or not allow my children to go to. Libraries are places of voluntary inquiry. If a parent is concerned about what is in libraries, they can and should attend with their children. Laws like these encourage parents to opt out of parenting and let the state do all the parenting on their behalf. The legislature should be encouraging active and involved parenting. The definitions in this bill are vague and wide sweeping. They'll effectively ban from access books about consent, sex education, books with images of breast feeding, and likely art history books. Unfortunately, we live in a world where teens may very well need access to books about sexual assault or how to navigate the pitfalls of pornography. And now the state legislature is taking books like "Poet X" or "The Glass Castle," and putting them on par with Playboy- which is quite frankly disgusting. Books can become powerful tools to keep our kids safe and educated. Is this law going to restrict books on puberty?

As my husband and I have parented our 4 children over the years (ages 16, 14, 12, 8) we have found books to be so incredibly helpful in teaching our children about complex and difficult topics. Books are safe places to learn about hard and sensitive topics and they have created opportunities for conversations we otherwise might not have had. And the best learning has happened when our children have had the opportunity to explore and choose books THEY want to read. The library is a magical place- it opens up the world for my kids. And I wholeheartedly agree that not every book is appropriate for every child at every age but those are our decision to make as a family, that is not for you, the state legislature to decide. In moving to Texas from New York we never expected the state government here to reach into our lives and our local community to try and make so many decisions for our family.

Please leave our libraries alone and let us parent our children as we see fit. Vote no on HB 3225.

Bonnie Wallace

Self

Llano, TX

Our children deserve safe spaces where they can explore, learn, and grow without being exposed to content that their developing minds simply aren't ready to process.

From a legal perspective, this bill stands on solid constitutional ground. The Supreme Court has consistently held that obscene materials are not protected by the First Amendment and has recognized the compelling state interest in protecting minors from harmful content. In *Miller v. California*, the Court established that obscenity can be regulated according to community standards, and in *FCC v. Fox*, the Court specifically acknowledged the unique vulnerability of children to explicit content.

The current patchwork of exemptions for "educational" materials creates an absurd legal contradiction: materials that would trigger criminal charges if shown to a child outside a library can be freely accessed within it. This bill resolves that contradiction by applying consistent standards regardless of location.

HB 3225 is carefully crafted to withstand legal scrutiny. It provides clear definitions, establishes reasonable enforcement mechanisms, and includes due process through its review procedures. The bill doesn't engage in viewpoint discrimination - it focuses narrowly on sexually explicit content that is already recognized as harmful to minors under existing law.

I urge you to support this bill because every child deserves a childhood. Every parent deserves peace of mind when sending their child to the library. Every community deserves libraries that respect the vulnerability of our youngest members.

This bill properly balances First Amendment concerns with the state's legitimate interest in protecting children. It doesn't ban books—it simply ensures that sexually explicit materials are not accessible to minors while preserving adult access to these materials.

The measure of any society is how well it protects its most vulnerable. With HB 3225, we have the opportunity to stand up for our children and say that their innocence matters. I ask you to vote yes.

Kenneth Kasper

Self

New Braunfels, TX

I am in favor of this bill b/c it is extremely damaging for children to have access to sexually explicit materials. Exposure creates long term porn habits which result in further societal decline which we can not afford any more of....

Kristen Rutherford, Mrs.

Self

Georgetown, TX

I request you to please vote "no" on HB 3225. It makes public libraries inaccessible to patrons, in that people under 18 will be restricted by the government to access all publicly available materials. In some states such as Idaho where similar legislation has been passed, this has put entire libraries off-limits to people under the age of 18 because the library layout and staff are not conducive to blocking off entire sections. There are smaller and more rural libraries in Texas which would similarly be affected.

I also do not trust the state to be the decider of what is or is not acceptable for people to choose to read. In the case of people under the age of 18, let their legal guardians guide them or give them free will as they deem fit. Librarians' job is to collect, conserve, and make-available reading materials to the public which they serve; they are NOT nannies nor babysitters. They are NOT substitutes for parental figures. Please do not make the government step in where they do not belong.

Cynthia Clements

Self. I am a retired college librarian and Humanities instructor, and also worked in a public library in Texas.

Plano, TX

I am against the bill which would censor books in public librarians in Texas. We live in a democracy, and children and adults should be allowed to read any books. Not having this freedom is a move to censor democratic rights. If parents do not want their children to read a book, then they can monitor their reading selections. Libraries are invaluable as they offer information on both sides of issues, and being available to select topics on controversial issues is part of open information. Once you start censoring books, we are no longer in a democracy.

Karla Moyer

Self

Austin, TX

Dear Rep. Alders,

I strongly oppose HB 3225 as a restriction of freedom of speech, granted by the Constitution. It is your duty to allow authors to express their opinions without censorship, interference or restraint by the government. The First Amendment also protects the right to receive information. It is not your job to ban or censor books.

It is never the "good guys" who censor books. We all have the right to have access to a broad range of ideas, even ideas we or others disagree with. Please do your job and protect our children and parents' access to books.

Sincerely, Karla Moyer, Col (ret), USAFR

Nicole Bedoya

self

Austin, TX

I'm writing to express strong opposition to the proposed bill restricting access to "sexually explicit" materials in municipal public libraries. While the stated goal of protecting minors may seem reasonable at first glance, this legislation is fundamentally about control — not protection.

It removes access to knowledge and information without consent — including parental consent. You are making sweeping decisions on behalf of all families, based on the values of a small, politically motivated group. I do not consent to having my child's access to information dictated by someone else's fear or discomfort.

The language of the bill is intentionally vague and opens the door for widespread abuse. Texas has already seen this in action. Books have been pulled not because they are obscene, but because they: Include LGBTQ+ characters or same-sex relationships; Mention menstruation, puberty, or gender identity; Offer honest, developmentally appropriate conversations about consent, masturbation, or self-worth

Meanwhile, this bill explicitly protects religious content — despite the fact that religious texts often contain graphic material, moral judgments, and sexual content themselves. That double standard makes the bill's intent clear: this is not about shielding children, it's about enforcing a particular worldview.

As a woman who grew up without support or guidance around puberty, sexuality, or emotional development, I would have greatly benefited from books that framed these topics with honesty and compassion. Instead, I was left to internalize shame — simply for being curious, or for liking boys. And I was straight. Imagine how much more isolating this bill becomes for LGBTQ+ youth, who already struggle to see themselves represented in media and literature.

This policy silences them. It tells them their stories, bodies, and experiences are inappropriate. And it tells libraries: comply or lose your funding. The financial threat written into this bill is deeply concerning — a system designed to suppress dissent and force institutions into preemptive censorship just to avoid penalties. That's not public service. That's coercion.

And let's be honest: watching a same-sex couple kiss doesn't confuse straight kids. But for the kids who are questioning — representation might save their lives. Erasure doesn't protect children. It isolates them.

This bill also undermines parental rights by removing the ability to make informed choices about what's appropriate for our own children. It empowers bad-faith actors to challenge books that don't align with their values and forces libraries to justify inclusion under the constant threat of political retribution.

You cannot claim to champion parental rights, free speech, or community values while simultaneously passing legislation that silences, censors, and erases. Please **REJECT THIS BILL**. Our children deserve access to truth, representation, and the right to learn — not less.

Amanda Rios-Place, Ms

Self

Spring, TX

Oppose restrictions to minors' access to library materials. Doing so will result in minors being banned from public libraries which is unacceptable and unpatriotic.

Elizabeth Switek

Self

Austin, TX

On all levels this bill is absolutely ridiculous and a huge oversight by government, especially from the party of “small” government. Parents should have a choice where they and their children can go in a public library and in what they choose to read and the government should stay out of their lives. Parents should be parents and talk with their children about their family expectations and what they would like them to check out from the library. They should not ask for help from the Texas government to do their parenting for them.

Soleil Kibodeaux-Posey

Self

Cedar Park, TX

I am very much against HB 3225. By limiting access to books, a child won't even be able to get a cookbook, an encyclopedia, a history book, or any other book that could answer a question or complete a school assignment. I should be the one deciding what my child can read - not the government, not random organizations, nor state representatives. This bill violates my parental rights and my child's freedom to read. Stop trying to keep books away from children. Stop trying to keep children out of libraries. Stop creating barriers to information. Stop trying to keep Americans ignorant.

Ann Evans

Self

Georgetown, TX

Parents and not the government should be able to make decisions regarding their children's education and what is available and accessible to them. As this bill is written, there is not even an option for parents to opt out of the restricted access for their own children. Parents- not the government- should determine what books are and are not appropriate for their own children to read. Please protect Texas parent's rights, and vote "no" on HB 3225.

Raquel Bargas

N/A

Haltom City, TX

To restrict books is to restrict knowledge. By passing this bill you are in effect saying that you don't trust librarians to monitor age appropriate material, and you don't trust parents to raise and teach their children fundamental right from wrong issues. What constitutes "sexually explicit" is so broad, especially to conservatives who seem more interested in striking out literature they dislike, which is a direct attack to freedom of speech and freedom of information! Don't fall into the trap of believing that books are the corruptors of youth. Abuse and bad parenting is what leads to bad people.

William Lindley, Mr.

Self, retired

Houston, TX

For years, we have been told that books being removed from public school libraries and classrooms, are not book bans, because parents and students can find those books at their local public library. Now, this bill is proposing to restrict our kids' access to books in our local public libraries, too. As the bill is written, there is not even an option for parents to opt out of the restricted access for their own children. Parents- not the government- should determine what books are and are not appropriate for their own children to read. I went to small schools in a rural area. Access to all the modest resources in their small libraries and the public library in the nearby town was a vital part of my education and a path to a fuller and more productive life. Please protect Texas parent's rights, and vote "no" on HB3225.

Karen Sterling
Self
Cedar Creek, TX

I'd like to ask that you vote NO on this bill. Libraries are repositories of information sorely lacking in Texas curricula. No one should be penalized and fined for seeking knowledge.

Cymre Akin
Myself
Valley View, TX

I am against this bill. This will make it unnecessarily complicated to access books in the public library. Unrestricted access to public library materials is crucial for all patrons. It is at the discretion of each individual and each family to select their own library materials, items should not be segregated. This violates the rights of all Texans to have free access to information of all kinds, not just what others consider to be appropriate.

Robert Ryman
self
Arlington, TX

I'm not a parent, but will never forget reading The Exorcist in 7th grade & how it made me enthusiastic about reading. Republicans talk of small government, then try micromanaging social issues in which they have no business being involved. It's infuriating. They want to save the children, but who's going to save them from a tyrannical government? Parents should be empowered to raise their kids however they see fit. This legislation & all others like it are an attack on free speech, individuality & American values as we know them. With peace & love for my fellow Texans.

Drew Alders
Self
Buda, TX

Common sense bill. Municipal libraries should not show sexually explicit material to minors. Should be non-controversial

Sarah Doegey
Self Stay at Home Mom of three children
New Braunfels, TX

I am in favor of this bill as children do not need access to sexually explicit content.

Tara Petsch
Self
Fredericksburg, TX

FOR this bill. Protect our children.

Mary Beck, Mrs.
Self/Homeschool Mom of 4
Lufkin, TX

Explicit material does not belong in areas of the library dedicated to minors. Libraries are meant to be a safe place for children to access books that add to their education and overall quality of life in a positive way. It is not a librarian's job to educate children about sexuality or related social issues of the day and yet by allowing explicit material to be placed in areas meant for minors they are inserting themselves in that role and thus usurping children's' parents. Parents should be able to take their kids to the library without worrying that they will be exposed to inappropriate, confusing and explicit material when browsing books.

Heather Jones
self, parent
Round Rock, TX

Please don't restrict our kids' access to books in our local public libraries, especially without even an option for parents to opt out of the restricted access for our own children. Parents - NOT THE GOVERNMENT - should decide what books are and are not appropriate for their own children to read. Please protect our rights as Texan parents, and vote "no" on HB 3225. Thank you!

Mary Bart
Self
Shiner, TX

Our children do not need access to sexually explicit materials in our libraries.

Kaylee Hunker
Self
Caddo Mills, TX

I am in favor of this bill as children do not need access to sexually explicit content

Jennifer Hammond
Self, Educator
Houston, TX

As a lifelong library user and aunt of three teenagers, I urge the Texas Legislature not to pass HB3225. It places inappropriate burdens on library staff and parents and removes access to age-appropriate materials on such important topics as making good decisions about sex, coping with sexual assault, and other topics which are relevant to teenage life. Libraries already have guard-rails for parents in the ability to give permission to visit the library and review check-outs. Teenagers who do not have access to well-written materials vetted by editors and librarians will not refrain from risky behavior--instead they will turn to peers on the internet whose maturity, reliability and good faith is dubious at best. This ban also sweeps up many books which have long been taught as part of the high school curriculum, including Shakespeare, Chaucer and the Bible. In an age where our students are falling short of the standards of previous generations, we should not be discouraging them from access to important historical texts. I am part of a generation on whom none of these restrictions were placed, and I do not see any reason why our children are suddenly more fragile. Teenagers do not need to be protected from the realities of life--they need to be equipped to deal with them. Parents know best what their children are ready for, and the Texas Legislature should get out of the way and allow parents and guardians, with the support of their community institutions like schools and libraries, to make those decisions with access to the full range of materials that are available to them. They do not need to be micromanaged from Austin.

James Braun
Self Financial Services
CANYON LAKE, TX

I am in favor if this bill as children do not need access to sexually explicit content.

Jan Love
N/A
Tyler, TX

Please pass this bill to protect our Texas children....its long overdue!

Louann Brandon
self, retired
Chandler, TX

Sexually explicit material does not need to be in the hands of children. What in the world is wrong with people that think little children need to be looking at porno? Get it out of children's section of public libraries and out of schools completely

Tasha Hooper

Self

New Braunfels, TX

Minors should NEVER have access to sexually explicit materials! I vote YES for BH 3225

Christie Finley

Children

New Braunfels, TX

Our children are not for sale

Alma Thompson

Self

Midland, TX

In favor

Children do not need access to books of sexual pornography

Hannah Pressoir

Self - stay at home mom

Tyler, TX

As a mom of young children, I value the ability to know that my children can pursue the shelves of the public library without fear of exposure to indecent materials.

Nina Brodsky

self

Austin, TX

Please vote against this bill. Banning books is always a terrible idea no matter what the reason. It usually has the opposite effect of making the books more enticing and popular. Furthermore, who gets to decide. What one person deems offense someone else may not and vice versa.

Kim Palmer

Self

New Braunfels, TX

"I am in favor of this bill as children do not need access to sexually explicit content"

Tyler Pick

Self

New Braunfels, TX

I am in favor of this bill. As children should not have access to sexually explicit content.

Sheryl Hazelwood, Mrs.

Self

Tyler, TX

I am in favor of HB3225. We need strong legislation with strong financial penalties to incentivize libraries to MOVE explicit, obscene, and pervasively vulgar books FROM the section of public libraries designed for children TO the adult section. Currently, many libraries have a "Young Adult" section for 13 yr olds to 26 year olds. This allows them to have ADULT books within easy access to minors. We need to protect our children from mind pollution and the 20+ year olds who are hanging out in the children's section!

Thank you for your time.

Sheryl

Deann Hooper

Self

New Braunfels, TX

I am in favor of this bill as children do not need access to sexually explicit content

Tom Krieg

Self

Tyler, TX

I support this bill. I believe this a reasonable compromise and it's important to communicate cautionary warnings to prevent underage and develop children from be exposed to sexually explicit materials.

Jennifer Tilger

Self

BULVERDE TX, TX

I am in favor of this bill as children do not need access to sexually explicit content.

Jordan Loveland

Self

New Braunfels, TX

Yes!!! In Favor!! Children should not have access to sexually explicit material.

Sally Austin

Self

New Braunfels, TX

I am in favor of this bill as children do not need access to sexually explicit content

DiAna Garnett

SB.Wellness

New Braunfels, TX

Our children does not need to be exposed to sexual materials! Please stop this foolishness! They don't even know the proper names of their body parts and yet they are being shown perverted and pornographic materials! Absolutely not!!!!

Benjamin Davis

Self

Canyon Lake, TX

We need this to push through. Minors should not have access to this kind of material.

Teresa Pick, Mrs
Self
New Braunfels, TX

I am in favor of this bill and children do not need access to sexually explicit material! Thank you

Whitney Ramsey, Mrs
Self- teacher
New Braunfels, TX

I support this bill because I believe children should not have access to sexually explicit material.

James Stanislaw
Self
New Braunfels, TX

I am in favor of this bill as children do NOT need access to sexually explicit material.

Minda Anderson
Self
Austin, TX

I am OPPOSED to HB3225. I am not saying that minors should have access to pornography. However, the "sexually explicit" phrase is very subjective and we have seen it overinterpreted to include CLASSICS such as The Lonesome Dove and award-winning picture books. This bill would prevent libraries from curating or displaying many important books in teen and children's sections, including sex-education materials, young adult novels, and even classic literature and art books. It would also RESTRICT YOUTH from accessing the general collection—even for school assignments or research—potentially BLOCKING STUDENTS FROM READING The Great Gatsby, The Color Purple, or Beloved. It would also force libraries to implement COSTLY, impractical segregation of books and spaces, or risk legal consequences. Counties do not have money to spend on WASTEFUL discriminatory practices or defending themselves against LAWSUITS. Why in a state with one of the lowest reading scores in the country would we want to LIMIT KIDS' ACCESS TO BOOKS?

I loved to read when I was growing up and my parents couldn't afford to buy the amount of books at the rate I went through them. Our weekly trips to the library were essential in furthering my EDUCATION and imagination. When I heard a public library branch was going to be built within walking distance of my house, I jumped up and down and squealed. I was so excited!! When it opened, I was their best customer. When I turned 12, my parents allowed me to walk to the library on my own. I would spend hours browsing the shelves and discovering new stories. I fell in love with The Lord of the Rings, Gone With the Wind, and other classics I could only find in the general sections of the library. I would have been devastated and frustrated to hear I was not allowed to check out those books. My parents trusted the librarians to have books available for me, no matter the reading level. I flourished in this environment and know that thousands of other Texas children also flourish thanks to their public libraries. I urge you to vote AGAINST this bill so we can continue to allow our kids access to reading materials. Thank you.

Jennifer Trusty
Self, Librarian
Pearland, TX

This bill is problematic on many fronts. First it is vague in its definition of "sexually explicit." Second it would restrict access to the library for anyone under 18 which would also keep parents from being able to access the library with their children. All of these issues go against every Texan's First Amendment freedoms to access information. Please do not allow this bill to go any further.

Robyn Daniels

Self/retired

Tyler, TX

Please pass HB 3225 so we can finally define what needs to be defined so we can keep this material away from our kids. Other states have done it and Texas needs to do it too. If material is too sensitive to read in public at meetings than material certainly shouldn't be accessible to minors. Our libraries have been run by liberal librarians who have no accountability and never listened to the Majority of public opinion in Texas. Let's finally get this done! Thank you.

Brianna Barbo

Self

Canyon lake, TX

Yes

Bella Jo Moore

Self

Wimberley, TX

I am in favor of this bill as children do not need access to sexually explicit content

Cristian Banu

Self - ramp agent

Cedar Creek, TX

I strongly support this bill.

Megan Short

Self

New Braunfels, TX

"I am in favor of this bill as children do not need access to sexually explicit content"

Robert Mesaros, Mr

Self/ Master Plumber

New Braunfels, TX

HB 3225 is a commonsense bill that helps protect kids in Texas public libraries without overcomplicating things for the libraries themselves. It focuses on keeping sexually explicit content out of reach for minors, something most parents and community members can agree on. The bill doesn't ban books or stop adults from accessing what they want—it just makes sure that public spaces funded by taxpayers are appropriate for all ages.

Please pass this bill as written

Carolyn Aramendia

Self

Seguin, TX

Yes in Favor I am in favor of this bill as children do not need access to sexually explicit content

Kelsey Cler

Self

Austin, TX

I am strongly opposed to this bill, which will result in targeted restriction of access to diverse and inclusive materials, particularly those that center LGBTQIA+ voices and experiences. This bill would open the door to censorship based on vague, subjective standards and individual complaints. It would set a precedent and send a clear message that some stories and some people do not belong. Libraries are one of the few truly inclusive spaces where young people can explore their identities, find representation, and access age-appropriate, affirming content.

Debra Hensley

Parker county

Cresson, TX

I strongly support HB 3225. Our public libraries should be safe environments for children, including teens, free from sexually explicit material. This bill provides clear standards and accountability, ensuring taxpayer dollars aren't funding inappropriate content for minors. Please vote YES on HB 3225 and help make Texas libraries family-

Shannon Taylor

Self

Cibolo, TX

Yes

Corri Planck

Self

Austin, TX

Please vote no on HB 3225. This is too much government intrusion -- libraries are safe havens for so many and access to information obtained at libraries can sometimes be life saving. This bill is a solution in search of a problem, and as a library user and a parent, I strongly oppose this attempt to regulate access to information. Our society, and the state of Texas, would be better served by people accessing more information and educational materials, not less.

Dave Cookson

Self

Flint, TX

As tax payers we oppose our funds to support sexually exploited porn books in children's section of our public libraries.

Cindy Geisman

Self

Bastrop, TX

I oppose this bill. This is censorship. Parents do have a role in monitoring what their children read but censorship is not the way to go here.

Marie Day

self

Shiner, TX

Another example of sloppy legislation. This bill exempts religious material. Come on, y'all! Everyone knows this is the "out" that makes this junk legislation! Please do NOT support this bill.

Alan Pfeiffer-Traum
self, IT professional
Houston, TX

I am opposed to HB3225. The librarians in my community's public libraries know what content should be made available to the children in my community. They respond to the wishes of parents and children. We do not need this kind of control from the State.

Christie Shanafelt, Dr.
self, physician
Richardson, TX

I am writing in opposition to HB 3225.

As soon as I could write my own name at age 4, I got my own library card. The library provided me as a homeschooled child from a lower income household access to the barrier islands of my home state of Virginia, the mountains of Arabia, and even outer space. It unlocked imagination and creativity.

If we desire to maintain a well-educated population, we cannot afford to restrict children and teens from access to libraries. If anything, we should be seeking to establish new branches of libraries so each neighborhood would have one within walking distance, as the most needy families with the least access to books of their own frequently also don't have easy access to transportation.

I implore the Texas House of Representatives, do not place this new onerous, big-government authoritarian legislation in the way of allowing the next generation of children adequate access to the wealth of knowledge available through our public libraries. Please vote no on HB 3225.

Dianne Pace
Self
Jasper, TX

I am appalled at the overreach of this bill. As an educator and librarian who understands the supreme importance of book access for children, especially in rural communities, this attempt at censorship by couching this as protecting our children from sexually explicit materials is just egregious. I, my children and grandchildren have run through libraries our entire lives and have never had an issue with sexually explicit materials. No librarian is going to put pornography on a shelf. This bill must not be passed.

Kathy Turner
SELF
McGregor, TX
strongly support

Jean Paulsel
Self - Early Childhood Education Consultant
Weatherford, TX

Please vote "no" on this bill which limits free access to materials and, worse, makes librarians the guardian of whatever censorship you put into place. Who determines what is "sexually explicit"? As a parent and grandparent, I will do my own work on determining what my grandchildren can read. It is NO BUSINESS of the state to serve as guardian of whatever YOU feel is obscene or sexually explicit. Hands off my reading materials.

Delainey Bittner

Self

Round Rock, TX

Last time I checked this was the party of freedom, yet all you seem to be doing is taking away all of our freedoms. Here's a wild idea, if a parent does not want their child to read a certain type of book they should actually parent their child and tell them no. The government should not have jurisdiction on what people are allowed to read. We really do need to be uplifting our libraries instead of putting more chains and boundaries on them. The future is built off an intelligent workforce not a stupid one. Our libraries are vital to our communities and I want my tax dollars going to giving everyone equal access to all books not to a group deciding what we all can and cannot read.

Helena Taylor

Self

Tomball, TX

Stop censoring books because you don't want YOUR child to read them!!!!

Martin Rivera

Self / Unemployed

El Paso, TX

HB 3225 by Alders is an unnecessary bill since the Texas legislator has already banned many books from schools and public libraries. To me this seems as government overreach, plus, it infringes on parental rights by essentially freeing parents from the responsibility of protecting their children and infringing on the first amendment.

Rebekah Adams

Self

Mckinney, TX

Please support HB 3225. Children need protection from sexually explicit material. Sexually graphic or titillating material does NOT belong in public libraries, public school libraries, or public school curriculum.

Linda Ward

Self

Dallas, TX

I am strongly opposed to children receiving exposure to any sexually explicit materials in school. I strongly urge all members to vote for this Important bill!

Joe Stubblefield

Self

Bullaed, TX

As a retired Superintendent of schools in Texas, I am fully aware of the affect reading material can have on a child's mind. The inappropriate material can make a child act out inappropriately. Material not suitable or appropriate for the child's Agee can cause many problems that can manifest late. If the material is not where the child is able to digest its content in a proper manner, he or she may act out against other children thinking it is ok to act that way. Please do the right thing for our children and keep their minds clear and able to think on positive things that will help them in life.

Sincerely

Ann Lueb, Mrs.

Self

Cibolo, TX

Yes, I am in favor of this bill. Children DO NOT need access to sexually explicit content.

Bill MacKey

n/a

Tyler, TX

I strongly support HB 3225. Our public libraries should be safe environments for children, including teens – free from sexually explicit material. This bill provides clear standards and accountability, ensuring taxpayer dollars aren't funding inappropriate content for minor children. Please vote YES on HB 3225 and help make Texas libraries family friendly.

Elizabeth Martin

Self

New Braunfels, TX

I am in favor of this bill as children do not need access to sexually explicit contentT

Grace Young

self

New Braunfels, TX

I am in favor of this bill as children do not need access to sexually explicit content

Denise Brady

Self

Spring Branch, TX

I am in favor of this Bill as our minor children do NOT need access to sexually explicit content

Ron Powell

Self

New Braunfels, TX

Yes

Jill Thrift

Self

San Antonio, TX

Please pass this bill. We must protect our children from pornography.

Kelly Secker

Self

Dallas, TX

I am in favor of the bill as children do not need sexually explicit material in public libraries. They are not intellectually or emotionally developed for this material.

Pamela Cook, Mrs

Self

Terrell, TX

Please stop letting ours kids read this kind of materials! No drag either!

Betty Hughes
Self
Bergheim, TX

I am in favor of this bill. Children don't need access to sexually explicit content

Hattie Lord
Seld
New Braunfels, TX

YES IN FAVOR

Linda Bartle
BSBCR
Spring Branch, TX

I am in favor of this bill and ask that you pass it to protect children

Nicole Cato
Myself as a Mom
Leander, TX

I support HB 3225! Our Texas libraries should be safe for children, including teens, free from sexually explicit books. This bill provides standards and accountability with clarity, ensuring taxpaying dollars aren't funding harmful, pornographic material for kids. Vote YES on HB 3225 and help make Texas libraries family-friendly please.

Tami Maloney
Self
Cypress, TX

I support HB 3225. Public libraries should be a safe place for children and teens and they should be protected from sexual materials as defined in the penal code 43.25. This bill will help stop the sexualizing and grooming of Texas minors

Pat Jefferson
Nb conservatives
New Braunfels, TX

Please keep Sexually explicit materials out of our public libraries. children are not ready for explicit materials and it should come from a different source when they are ready their parents. Their parents.

Danielle Bryant, Dr.

Self

Austin, TX

At its core, this bill threatens not just access to books, but the very spirit of public libraries. Libraries have long stood as one of the few truly democratic spaces in our communities—where access to information, literature, and imagination is available to everyone, regardless of income, age, or background.

Let me list just a few of the books that could be restricted under this bill's vague and sweeping definitions:

- *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald
- *Of Mice and Men* by John Steinbeck
- *Romeo and Juliet* by William Shakespeare
- *The Outsiders* by S.E. Hinton
- *Are You There God? It's Me, Margaret* by Judy Blume
- *Draw Me a Star* by Eric Carle
- *In the Night Kitchen* by Maurice Sendak
- Books on Renaissance Art, including Michelangelo's *David*
- *The Care and Keeping of You* by American Girl
- *Lord of the Flies* by William Golding
- *Encyclopedia Britannica* entries on human reproduction
- *Catcher in the Rye* by J.D. Salinger
- *Brave New World* by Aldous Huxley
- *Hatchet* by Gary Paulsen
- *The Grapes of Wrath* by John Steinbeck
- *Jane Eyre* by Charlotte Brontë

These are not fringe or controversial books—they're assigned in classrooms, shelved in art sections, and help our kids grow and learn. Reading these books is what makes us American. Exploring new ideas in public libraries is who we are.

And yet, in small and rural libraries—where physical separation of materials isn't possible—young people could be effectively barred from the library altogether. We've already seen this happen in Idaho, where similar policies led libraries to close their doors to anyone under 18. Is that the future we want for Texas?

I also want to ask: what specific books does the bill's author consider to contain "sexually explicit material"? Because when bill author, Representative Alders was asked this very question—he told people to Google "dirty books in public libraries." I tried. Nothing comes up. If even the bill's author can't offer clarity, how are librarians, parents, or educators supposed to?

And let's be clear—this bill is also an unfunded mandate. It forces local libraries, many of which are already under-resourced, to conduct annual reviews, implement new labeling systems, and respond to public petitions within ten days. That is not just burdensome—it is unrealistic, especially for small and rural libraries that don't have dedicated compliance teams. The state is demanding costly administrative labor without offering the funding to make it possible. HB 3225 is government overreach cloaked in the language of protection. It sidelines parents, disrespects librarians, places unrealistic burdens on local communities, and threatens to turn our public libraries into battlegrounds of censorship and legal chaos.

Please, stand for our freedoms. Stand for our libraries. Vote no on HB 3225.

Xiaowen Ma

self

Austin, TX

I'm writing to object to HB 3225. Public libraries serve all age segments of the public. Legislators should not try to make libraries do parents' jobs and the law should absolutely not punish libraries for having books in their collection that serve reading audience who are not underage.

Andrew Ruffino

Myself, a retired public school teacher.

Bryan, TX

I am a retired public school teacher, municipal public libraries should be prohibited to allowing minors access to sexually explicit materials.

David Welch, Pastor

Texas Pastor Council

Houston, TX

On behalf of the 1000 plus pastors we serve across every corner of Texas we strongly support adoption of HB 3225 to protect our children

Melanie Sweeney Bowen

Self

Spring, TX

I vehemently oppose this bill, which purports to protect children from sexually explicit material but in fact denies them access to both educational materials with any link to sexuality AND materials that have no link whatsoever to sexuality or anything remotely inappropriate for their age. Banning children's access to materials (or to the libraries themselves simply because there are books anywhere inside the building that might include sexually explicit materials) is not only a gross overreaction to a minor (if not nonexistent) problem; it also strips Texas parents of the right to determine which books we'll allow our kids to consume.

I'm a parent who also homeschools my children. We rely on our library for many educational resources, including scientific and health-related texts. Using our library is a cost-saving measure, allowing us to use books briefly for a unit without having to buy them. How can I instruct my kids about sexuality or physiology without access to these texts?

Furthermore, if libraries cannot comply with totally separating children's spaces or children's movements within them from the materials deemed explicit, will children simply be banned from libraries, cutting them off from materials, programs, and safe spaces?

Not only am I a parent, but I'm also a USA Today bestselling author. Libraries help my books reach a wider audience. If my books are censored or removed from libraries because they are written for adults and include an array of adult topics, then I will lose readers whose only access to my work is through their library system. And as a reader as well, I read at least 75 books a year. I get many of them from the library.

What this all comes down to is a puritanical overreaction to sex in any form, making no distinction between pornography, art, and educational instruction. The recent pushback against romance novels in particular is troubling, as it demonizes depictions of healthy relationships, reducing expressions of affection and love that model healthy communication, consent, respect, and care down to harmful porn. Adults should have access to books that show a wide range of human experiences, including sex. And as children become teens, they should have access to depictions of affection and intimacy that are appropriate for their age and relevant to the experiences many of them are already navigating. Some parents won't want their kids or teens exposed to any of it. Others will be glad for vetted texts that can help their kids and teens think through these situations. And that's the key — parents should be able to make these decisions for their own children, not for everyone else's children or for whole communities by creating impossible limits on libraries to comply with this bill should it become law.

Finally, the language in this bill is not nearly specific enough. It opens the door to a wide interpretation that will be impossible to satisfy.

Texans don't want censorship. Please vote no.

Madeline Lenard
Self/Student
New Braunfels, TX

I am in favor of this bill as children do not need access to sexually explicit content.

Rebecca Lenard
Self
new braunfels, TX

I am in favor of this bill as children do not need access to sexually explicit content.

Melissa Yamashita, Mrs.
Self
New Braunfels, TX

I'm in support of this bill. Please vote Yes.

Patrick Wamhoff
Self/SREC SD30
Frisco, TX

Support HB3225

Atlie Smith, Ban Explicit Content in libraries

Bonnie Wallace
New Braunfels, TX

I am in favor of this bill as children do not need access to sexually explicit content

Avalee Lenard
Grace Ptrepartory Academy of New Braunfles
New braunfels, TX

I am voting in favor of this bill, children do not need access to sexually explicit content

Clayton Deyling
Bonnie Wallace
Seguin, TX

I am in favor of this bill as children do not need access to sexually explicit content

Angela Young
Self
New Braunfels, TX

I am in favor of this bill as children do not need access to sexually explicit content.

Bashella James

Self

New Braunfels, TX

I request that any pornographic material not be in accessible areas for children. If a parent wants to check out a book with images of pornographic material for their child, they can request it, but it does not need to be in an area where the majority of parents do not want it. I'm a survivor of SA and I will say, my stepfather used pornographic materials to groom me. Any adult who wants their little kids to learn about anal sex, pedophilia and incest are 100% trying to groom their child. There should be protection for the children!

Georgia Arcuri

Students

new braunfels, TX

I am in favor of this bill as children do not need access to sexually explicit content.

Lilly Melott

Self; Student

New Braunfels, TX

I am in favor of this bill as children do not need access to sexually explicit content.

Alexandria Lawrence

Self/Student

Saginaw, TX

Who decides what is sexually explicit? Every person has a different definition of sexually explicit. However you may try to word this bill, it is not truly targeting sexual acts in literature. What you truly want to target is the access to exploration of identity and comfort that so many LGBTQ+ youth need. By restricting access to literature that these youth library patrons can relate to and be reflected in, you cause irreparable damage. You put the minors that you claim to want to protect at risk. What happens when these minors feel completely isolated by their community? Additionally, public libraries should not live in fear that they are going to be attacked and punished for supporting their patrons who may not have a support system at a critical point in their lives. Local libraries are places that serve as havens of safety and community to all members of all ages. They must provide their patrons with access to a variety of books covering all topics and perspectives, not just the ones that you want to see. When did it become a librarian's job to police what people of any age are reading? If a parent does not want their child to read a certain book because of its contents, that is a boundary they need to place between themselves, but they should not be able to restrict everyone else from accessing those books. We must trust that these librarians know what they are doing. These amazing, hardworking, individuals have completed degrees and devoted years of study to carefully curating collections and controlling how they do their jobs benefits no one. Fully prohibiting access to literature does no one any good, this is not about protecting children, if we were here to protect children, bills lowering the age for eligibility to purchase a gun would not be on the table. This bill is not about protection. This bill is about controlling youth library patrons and the librarians that serve their communities.

Brynlie Nikolai

Self

Spring Branch, TX

I am in favor of this bill, for children do not need access to explicit sexual content

Sharon Sheffy, Ms

Sslf

San Antonio, TX

FOR

Mario Sandoval
Self
New Braunfels, TX

In favor of the bill. I am in favor of this as children do not need access to sexually explicit content.

Joshua Young
Self
New Braunfels, TX

I am in favor of this bill as children do not need access to sexually explicit content

Meredith Roach
NA
Austin, TX

This bill enshrines censorship and there is no place for it in our independent-minded, freedom loving state. It punishes libraries and it's broad definition and age range could lead to many classic youth reading being censored. The state legislature is not trained and qualified to decide what books libraries should and shouldn't have. Again, this is censorship. This bill should not be supported.

Esther Sandoval
Self
New Braunfels, TX

Stop it. Don't pass this terrible bill.

Katharine Nance, Mrs.
Self
Bells, TX

We need to protect our minors from things they are not old enough for. Reading some of the books available to them, I wish I did not know. The only purpose I see for these books is to take away their sexual inhibitions. Those promoting the porn say it is to help them except themselves. I have not seen content for that purpose.

Alejandro Gauna, Mr
Self
Tyler, TX

Texas has failed to protect kids from porn literature. As a father of two daughters we need to protect our kids from literature being available at public libraries. We need to protect kids from sexually explicit material in municipal public libraries.

Romy Goldberg
Self
College station, TX

As written this bill allows all manner of educational content to be deemed explicit. Parents- not the government- should determine what books are and are not appropriate for their own children to read, especially in a public library. Please protect Texas parent's rights, and vote "no" on HB3225."

Monica Ford
Self, library associate
Austin, TX

I am writing today to urge you to strongly oppose Texas HB3225, which will be presented before your State Affairs committee on April 14, 2025. This bill is problematic because it attacks access to books in public libraries. HB3225 forbids municipal public libraries from allowing anyone under 18 to access “sexually explicit” materials without clearly defining "sexually explicit."

In order to comply with this vague legislation, libraries would have to restrict anyone under 18 to children’s/teen/YA sections—they could not be allowed into the library’s sections for the general (adult) public, where they might encounter “sexually explicit” books. Second, it would restrict the books that can be made available in those children’s/teen/YA sections. No sex-ed books, no descriptions of “sexual contact” in YA novels meant for older teens. Art books would be at risk, as would innocent books like Eric Carle’s Draw Me a Star and Maurice Sendak’s In the Night Kitchen.

Additionally, small and rural libraries that do not have separate areas for children, teens, and adult library materials would not be able to properly serve the needs of all community members under this bill. I strongly urge you to vote against HB3225 and to protect my First Amendment freedom to access information.

Petina Franklin, Mrs
Self/self employed
Fort Worth, TX

Please pass this bill.

Laurie Moore
Self
Austin, TX

Please vote for HB 3225. We must protect our most vulnerable citizens.

Dale Ann Price
Self
Bullard, TX

I am wholeheartedly in support of this bill.

Merrie Schmidt
Self
New Braunfels, TX

We don’t need sexually explicit books in our public libraries. That serves no more purpose than Playboy magazines did.

Denise Lane, Mrs
Self
Ben Wheeler, TX

I strongly support HB 3225, and I ask that you support it as well. Thank you.

Sharon Fogg
New Braunfels Conservatives
New Braunfels, TX

Children do not need to have sexual explicit materials in school libraries

Amanda Vass

Self

Lindale, TX

I am for this bill. This is a topic that I feel is up to the parents to address.

Anna Lindsey

Self

The Hills, TX

My name is Anna Lindsey, and I'm writing to oppose HB3225 that will be heard by the State Affairs Committee on Monday. For years, we have been told that books being removed from public school libraries and classrooms are not book bans because parents and students can find those books at their local public library. Now, this bill is proposing to restrict our kids' access to books in our local public libraries, too. As the bill is written, there is not even an option for parents to opt out of the restricted access for their own children. Parents- not the government- should determine what books are and are not appropriate for their own children to read. Please protect Texas parent's rights, and vote "no" on HB 3225.

Ronda McCurry

Texas Library Association

Fort Worth, TX

Hello, My name is Ronda McCurry. I am a retired public school librarian. I am writing my Representative, Tony Tinderholt, to vote NO HB 3225!!

Blessings,

Ronda

Alyssa Gilden, Dr.

Self, child psychologist

Austin, TX

I am writing to voice concern and opposition to HB 3225 that will be heard by the State Affairs Committee on Monday. For years, we have been told that books being removed from public school libraries and classrooms, are not book bans, because parents and students can find those books at their local public library. Now, this bill is proposing to restrict our kids' access to books in our local public libraries too. As the bill is written, there is not even an option for parents to opt out of the restricted access for their own children. Parents, not the government, should determine what books are and are not appropriate for our children to read. Please protect Texas parent's rights, and vote "no" on HB 3225.

Kindra Coleman

Self- Board Certified Behavior Analyst and Consultant

Austin, TX

Public libraries are institutions of learning and allow individuals from all backgrounds to access literature and library resources. Public libraries house materials based on fiction, and non-fiction and reference texts that provide access to information and knowledge in a variety of topics and subject matters. With this Bill's current lack of specificity in defining "sexually explicit materials," access to many medical texts, art history references, and other works of scientific merit could be restricted.

Without a clear distinction of what materials are and are not permissible, we risk opening our public institutions to censorship and undue federal and state regulation, threatening the division of Church and State in our publicly funded libraries. Without oversight on the removal or restriction of certain materials, there could be a wide discrepancy in what is considered "appropriate" across geographic regions, causing an increased risk of inequities in our public spaces.

Additionally, by imposing this regulation in a public space, the Legislature would also be impeding upon the Freedom of Speech and Expression for the authors, illustrators and creators of content, as well as the consumers that are under 18 years old.

I do not support allowing minors to access pornographic materials or any that could be considered exploitative or dangerous; however there are effective laws in place to prevent this.

HB900, passed in the 88th Legislature, has already set a foundation for limiting access to materials that may be considered sexually explicit or offensive to vendors that provide books to Public School and other publicly funded programs. Extending HB900 to public libraries could allow for the identification of materials to reduce access by minors; however, removing these materials entirely infringes upon the rights of all citizens, including those over the age of majority, to access materials that do not meet the standard definition for pornographic or obscene visual materials under Texas Penal Code 43.261, which deals with the possession and promotion of obscene visual materials, especially those involving minors.

As such, this Legislation is unnecessary and represents an attempt to censor publicly available materials in our State funded Public Libraries, which is a direct violation of the Texas State Constitution.

Please vote against this Bill, and do not limit the access to appropriate learning materials, scientific texts, or literature in Public Libraries.

Jack Feldman

Nnne

San Antonio, TX

Freedom to choose what one reads no censorship

K. Meador

Self

Dallas, TX

I oppose HB3225. We keep being told that books removed from school libraries and classrooms are not book bans, because parents and students can still get those books free at their local public library. This bill now further degrades parental rights by attempting to restrict public libraries' books, without allowing parents to opt out of some out-of-towner morality committee's opinion of what our own children should read. Parents--NOT the government--are the only ones to determine what books are and aren't appropriate for our own children. Defend Texan parental rights and vote "no" on HB 3225.

Kelly Williams
Self, Homemaker
Pearland, TX

I am against HB3255. Keep open access to materials in libraries for all people, and allow free access to information! Parents should be the one to make decisions for their children, not state or government. This is the responsibility of the parents only, not the state legislature. Also please remember that the Bible is sexually explicit so should this pass minors would not be allowed access to the Bible.

Elizabeth Jordan
Self, Bookseller
San Antonio, TX

I am writing today to urge you to strongly oppose Texas HB3225, which will be presented before your State Affairs committee on April 14, 2025. This bill is problematic because it attacks access to books in public libraries. HB3225 forbids municipal public libraries from allowing anyone under 18 to access "sexually explicit" materials without clearly defining "sexually explicit."

In order to comply with this vague legislation, libraries would have to restrict anyone under 18 to children's/teen/YA sections—they could not be allowed into the library's sections for the general (adult) public, where they might encounter "sexually explicit" books. Second, it would restrict the books that can be made available in those children's/teen/YA sections. No sex-ed books, no descriptions of "sexual contact" in YA novels meant for older teens. Art books would be at risk, as would innocent books like Eric Carle's Draw Me a Star and Maurice Sendak's In the Night Kitchen.

Additionally, small and rural libraries that do not have separate areas for children, teens, and adult library materials would not be able to properly serve the needs of all community members under this bill. I strongly urge you to vote against HB3225 and to protect my First Amendment freedom to access information.

Celeste Tavera
SELF/Stay-at-Home Parent
Austin, TX

I am asking you to oppose House Bill 3225. I am the proud parent of two avid readers and our family are heavy users of the public library system. One of our favorite Saturday activities has been to go to Austin's downtown library and spend a leisurely morning perusing books. My children--a twelve year-old and fourteen year-old, often browse the General Collection, looking for books pertaining to fishing, World War II history, crafts, and cooking. If this bill passes, my children will no longer have full access to the most basic and essential of public spaces. I want my children to continue loving books and exploring the world through the power of the written word. As a parent, I fully support and empower my kids to access information and knowledge through the library, and I want to continue to encourage them to utilize and fall in love with the library as I was able to do. As a lifelong Texan, I have fond memories as a child exploring the library and checking out books, and want my children to have the same experiences. My kids actually have FUN in the library--one of the few "third spaces" available for all members of a community. I love that they can go to the library and see all kinds of people coming together to read, rest, research, converse, meet, and be in community. This bill is a huge overreach of the Texas government, infringing on my rights as a parent to guide my children in the public library and allow them to access books as I see fit. This bill is also intentionally vague with its descriptor of "sexually explicit" material, without further defining this terminology, which leaves a wide berth. This bill is nothing more than a book ban to prevent children from reading books that I, as a parent, actually deem appropriate and important for my children to read---despite what the State Legislature believes. I ask you to vote no on House Bill 3225. Thank you for your time.

Lesli Moore

self

Manvel, TX

While the intention to protect minors is commendable, HB 3225 raises several concerns regarding censorship, the practicality of implementation, and the potential negative impact on public libraries and their patrons.

Violation of Intellectual Freedom: Public libraries are institutions that uphold the principles of intellectual freedom and the right to access information. HB 3225 imposes restrictions that could lead to censorship, limiting the availability of materials based on imperfect definitions of what constitutes "sexually explicit" and "sexual conduct."

Chilling Effect on Library Collections: The bill could result in the removal or restriction of a wide range of materials, including educational and artistic works. This could create a chilling effect, where libraries may preemptively exclude materials to avoid potential penalties, thereby limiting the diversity of their collections.

Burden on Library Staff: The bill requires libraries to implement age verification measures and conduct annual reviews of their collections. This places a significant administrative burden on library staff, who may lack the resources and expertise to effectively carry out these tasks.

Ambiguity in Guidelines: The bill mandates the Texas State Library and Archives Commission to establish guidelines for reviewing collections. However, the imperfect nature of determining what constitutes sexually explicit material could lead to inconsistent and arbitrary enforcement.

Barrier to Access: Age verification measures could create barriers to accessing information for all patrons, not just minors. This could disproportionately affect marginalized communities who rely on public libraries as their primary source of information and resources.

Exclusion of Valuable Content: The bill's restrictions could lead to the exclusion of valuable educational and informational content that addresses important topics such as sexual health, relationships, and human development. These materials are essential for fostering informed and healthy communities.

Potential for Legal Challenges: The bill's provisions may face legal challenges on the grounds of violating the First Amendment rights of library patrons. Courts have historically upheld the right to access information and have struck down overly broad censorship laws.

While the protection of minors is a legitimate concern, HB 3225 introduces measures that could have far-reaching negative consequences for public libraries and their patrons. The bill's potential to infringe on intellectual freedom, create practical implementation challenges, restrict access to valuable information, and raise legal and ethical concerns warrants serious reconsideration. It is essential to explore alternative approaches that balance the protection of minors with the preservation of access to information and the upholding of intellectual freedom.

Donna Birdwell, Dr.

Self (retired)

Austin, TX

I am a 76-year-old third generation Texas and I OPPOSE HB3225. For years, we have been told that books being removed from public school libraries and classrooms, are not book bans, because parents and students can find those books at their local public library. Now, this bill is proposing to restrict our kids' access to books in our local public libraries, too. As the bill is written, there is not even an option for parents to opt out of the restricted access for their own children. Parents- not the government- should determine what books are and are not appropriate for their own children to read. Please protect Texas parent's rights, and reject HB 3225.

Dania Turner

Self

Bellaire, TX

This proposal is another attempt by our state lawmakers to legislate what is best for our children. It is also an attack on public libraries which are sometimes the only place children can go to access books and librarians who are trained to help readers find appropriate books. Public schools in HISD have already lost access to books and librarians. They have been replaced by 5 paragraphs from a book from which they are to determine topic, characters, sentence structure and other elements. This does not make readers! The students will never be interested enough or have enough access to read the entire book. This bill is a scare tactic to convince the public that our state is the only party which can protect our children. It is a shameful scam. Vote NO!

Dorcas Hand

self

Houston, TX

I oppose book banning in all it's forms. I encourage selection and curation of varied resources that educate or entertain every age. Your terms "sexually explicit material" and "sexual contact" are not defined adequately, which means you would be depriving all minors from information appropriate for their age. Even children need to understand their own bodies. And novels for middle grades and older may refer to romantic relationships just as they observe those in real life around their schools and families. The bill allows the Bible, which can get pretty racy - other books should be fine as well.

Above all in a state desperate to raise the literacy skills of all our K-12 students, who could [possibly think it a good idea to narrow those students' access to a wide range of books to choose.

Please vote AGAINST this egregious bill.

Nathan Petty

Self - Investor

Dallas, TX

I am in favor of HB 3225 because no child should have access to, or be forced to, view sexually explicit content.

Michele Reynolds

Self/ housewife

Dallas, TX

Yes in favor

Laura Biesel

Self

Dallas, TX

Yes we need to remove bad books from the schools

Robert Thompson

Self

Dallas, TX

In Favor

Debbie Adams

Self, retired

Wimbereley, TX

I support this bill. We must protect our children!! Let them be children as long as possible.

Jill Thompson

Self

Dallas, TX

In Favor!

Leigh Crow

Self

Dallas, TX

Protect our

Children

Beth Biesel, VP

Texas Eagle Forum

Dallas, TX

Vote FOR HB 3325.

Morgan Collier
Accountability Matters PMA
Talco, TX

H.B. No. 3225 aims to protect minors from sexually explicit materials in municipal libraries but contains loopholes that could undermine its goals and invite legal challenges. Below, I highlight these issues, suggest amendments, and propose repealing the "educational" defense for disseminating pornography as a simpler alternative.

Loopholes:

Vague Definition: "Sexually explicit material" tied to Penal Code Section 43.25 risks capturing protected speech (e.g., literature) or inconsistent enforcement.

Religious Exemption: Undefined "religious materials" (Sec. 310.002(d)) could be misused to bypass restrictions.

Weak Age Verification: Sec. 310.002(b) lacks standards, allowing ineffective measures like self-reported age checks.

Petition Abuse: Sec. 310.003(a)(3)'s 10-day review process could be overwhelmed without enforcement for delays.

Compliance Delay: The 45-day window (Sec. 310.003(b)) lets libraries postpone action.

Section Ambiguity: "Minor's section" (Sec. 310.001(6)) allows libraries to manipulate layouts.

Amendments:

Define "sexually explicit" using the Miller obscenity test, excluding educational texts.

Limit "religious materials" to instructional texts.

Require robust age verification (e.g., library card checks).

Cap petitions and penalize review delays.

Shorten compliance to 15 days with strict relocation.

Clarify "minor's section" to include marketed materials.

Alternative: Instead of H.B. No. 3225, amend Section 43.24, Penal Code, to repeal the "educational" defense for obscene materials accessed by minors. This avoids vagueness, reduces burdens, and aligns with existing law, minimizing legal risks.

Conclusion: H.B. No. 3225's loopholes risk ineffectiveness. Amendments can help, but repealing the "educational" defense is clearer and stronger. Please prioritize a sound solution.

Lucile McCormick
Self - family homemaker
Dallas, TX

Please vote a Resounding YES on this bill and remove junk from libraries - be careful little eyes what you see and woe if we are reading someone sins as u make it easy . They can always go elsewhere and get book or materials but let us be wise and not make it even easier . I don't want a mudstone around my neck and bet yall don't either .

Brenda Sargent, Ms
self/self employed
San Marcos, TX

I am IN FAVOR because children should be protected from content that is harmful to them

Leila Dolan
Self
San Antonio, TX

I am extremely concerned about the numerous library censorship bills that seem to indicate a nanny state where the government is raising our children is the goal of the Republican party. We have a governor bemoaning our public education system, while legislators are attempting to make Texans as uneducated as possible with no ability to think critically. What has happened to personal responsibility, for which traditional Republicans have advocated for decades? Our governor is posting every few hours about the importance of PARENT CHOICE, but the legislature is trying to create a nanny state where no one seems to be able to parent their own kids and the government is stepping in to make parenting decisions. This is NOT traditional Republican policy and I am speechless that Republican lawmakers are wanting to interfere in the business of Texas families this way. A parent should have the final decision in telling their children what books are acceptable to their family. And then, that parent has the responsibility to oversee that their children are following their family's decision. Why is state government even involved in making or enforcing this decision???? Why does the state want parents to abdicate this responsibility so that government officials are deciding what books are acceptable instead of parents? Libraries should be a welcoming place for everyone. A place where people can learn about themselves and others. As a Texan who would like to see fewer abortions and teen pregnancies, our most effective solution is EDUCATION. Materials that offer information to adolescents on how their bodies function and what is normal development would fall under this "sexually explicit" category. Why are you trying to keep Texans ignorant? I am a school nurse and have taught the district-approved "maturation" classes to fourth and fifth graders. The basic pencil sketches of genitalia and reproductive organs so that children know how their bodies work would fall under the "sexually explicit" category even though we are not permitted to discuss any mechanics or functions of intercourse. This is unfathomable that we would do such a disservice to our children in this state. That we would keep them ignorant until the age of 18 and expect them to make responsible decisions before and after that. If you think a government nanny state usurping the power of parents is a bad thing, I expect you to OPPOSE HB 3225.

Chloe Mills
Self
ROUND ROCK, TX

Please don't limit freedom of speech in the library! Parents should be the ones monitoring the books they would like their kids to read—not the government. Different families will have different standards and that's fine! Let the libraries be.

Heidi Pezdek
Myself
Lorena, TX

Please set moral boundaries for pervasively vulgar, and sexually explicit material in public libraries. School students have access to libraries on line as well. This oversight is a moral depravity from the ideology of any book for any age without parental oversight. It is not safe to let a minor go into a library alone. They can be defrauded by what books are displayed. They can look at books without checking them out. They can become addicted to sexual materials. Please pass this bill. Thank you

Rhonda Ward
SREC, SD 3
Nacogdoches, TX

I am for this bill. In what world is it okay for a child to see or have access to sexually explicit material? We must protect our children and make consequences to those who chose to exploit our children.

Julia S. Coffman, Ms
The Church
Dallas, TX

For this bill to remove sexually explicit books from ALL Texas schools. Julia S Coffman

Ramona Poole

self

Dallas, TX

Please help protect our children's innocence by keeping sexually explicit materials out of their hands.

Stephen Woods

Self

Dallas, TX

Yes, I am in favor of this bill as I don't want sexual materials in municipalities and public libraries.

Shelby Jaco

Self (NIBIN Technician)

Houston, TX

For years, we have been told that books being removed from public school libraries and classrooms, are not book bans, because parents and students can find those books at their local public library. Now, this bill is proposing to restrict our kids' access to books in our local public libraries, too. As the bill is written, there is not even an option for parents to opt out of the restricted access for their own children. Parents- not the government- should determine what books are and are not appropriate for their own children to read. Please protect Texas parent's rights, and vote "no" on HB3225

Ted Crow

Self

Dallas, TX

It is immoral the sexually explicit content found in school libraries

Katherine McCabe, Mrs.

self; human resources professional

Tyler, TX

I most strongly support our public libraries being safer environments for children, including teens, to include being free from sexually explicit materials. Please pass this bill to provide clear standards and accountability.

Kelley Maxwell, Mrs.

Self

Dallas, TX

I am in favor of this bill because Texas children do not need exposure to sexually explicit material.

Sandie Woods

Self

Dallas, TX

Vote yes to prohibit access by minors to sexually explicit in municipal public library collections; providing a civil penalty. Can we add public schools to this bill also?

Marigrace Contreras

Self

San Marcos, TX

I strongly support the bill. Keep our children safe!

Jennifer Jenkins

Self

Dallas, TX

I'm in favor of this bill as children do not need sexually explicit content.

Angela Smith

Fredericksburg Tea Party

Fredericksburg, TX

Thank you for voting this bill out of committee favorably. There is absolutely no reason that children should be exposed to explicit Materials.

Elizabeth McCabe

Self

Tyler, TX

I strongly support HB 3225. Our public libraries should be safe environments for children, including teens, free from sexually explicit material. This bill provides clear standards and accountability, ensuring taxpayer dollars aren't funding inappropriate content for minors. Please vote YES on HB 3225 and help make Texas libraries family-friendly.

Patricia Flournoy, Mrs

Self

Ovilla, TX

I vote yes in favor of HP 3225 to remove sexually explicit materials from the libraries

Krista Rogers

Self

Dallas, TX

I'm in favor of this bill. Children never need access to sexually explicit content

Anna Abrahams

Jaco booyens ministries

Montgomery, TX

I am in favor of this bill as children do not need access to sexually explicit content

Ally Raskin

self

Dallas, TX

I am in favor of this bill as children do not need access to sexually explicit content

Susan Anderson, Dr.

self

Benbrook, TX

I strongly oppose HB 3225, which aims to restrict minors' access to so-called "sexually explicit" materials in public libraries. While presented as a protective measure, this bill (1) employs vague terminology that has been used to disproportionately target books featuring LGBTQIA+ characters and themes and (3) threatens libraries with civil penalties, potentially leading to the removal of valuable educational and affirming content.?

As the parent of young adults, I've seen firsthand how open and accepting they are of their LGBTQ+ friends. Exposure to different identities—through friendships, social media, or books—does not change their sexual orientation. Quite honestly, books are among the least likely sources of information for today's youth, but they do offer a vital way to encourage empathy, understanding, and inclusion. There is no justification for restricting access to books that are not actually harmful.

HB 3225 is a book ban, plain and simple. It would further a wave of censorship and deny young people the opportunity to see themselves and others reflected in what they read. According to the 2023 HRC LGBTQ+ Youth Report, only 41% of LGBTQ+ youth feel safe in their school libraries. Access to inclusive materials is essential to their well-being. Please oppose HB 3225 and instead defend intellectual freedom to ensure that all Texas youth have access to diverse, affirming stories.

Tami Brown Rodriguez

Self / JBM

Dallas, TX

I support the passage of this bill. Children do NOT ever need to be exposed to explicit content. Let's safeguard their innocence.

Sophia Mirto

Self

Austin, TX

Libraries already have bans on certain topics or kinds of material that is deemed by qualified librarians to be inappropriate for children. Further bans are a violation of individual liberty. All Texan children deserve to access stories about the beautiful diversity of people that make up our great state. Book bans are a violation of our first amendment rights.

Leticia Urieta

AUSTIN BAT CAVE

Pflugerville, TX

I am writing as a Texan, an author, a teaching artist and arts administrator to oppose HB3225 that will be heard by the State Affairs Committee on Monday. For years, we have been told that books being removed from public school libraries and classrooms, are not book bans, because parents and students can find those books at their local public library. Now, this bill is proposing to restrict our kids' access to books in our local public libraries, too. As the bill is written, there is not even an option for parents to opt out of the restricted access for their own children. Parents- not the government- should determine what books are and are not appropriate for their own children to read. Please protect Texas parent's and youth rights, and vote "no" on HB3225.

Carlton Johnson, Mr
Self
Kingsland, TX

Good afternoon I know the dangers at this bill is trying to protect our children from; because I was exposed to materials as a young boy in my early teen years. Pornography, sexual items and products are very addicting. It caused great interference in my first marriage and the way I viewed sex with my wife and pretty much put into things there. So I'm asking to not let this happen to any of our other children or your children. please pass this bill. I speak from personal experience. I'm currently 67 years old and I'm thankful that so much of this is behind me and that I eliminated this from my life, but I struggled with it for many many years. So please let's not expose our children to these items.

I wish I could convey to you the deep sense of guilt and remorse. I feel we're having gotten involved and these types of things in my life in the past please pass this bill.

Thank you, Carlton Johnson

Melissa Huckabay
Self/college lecturer
Cypress, TX

I am very concerned about the censorship inherent in this bill.

The definition of "sexually explicit" is so vague that it can be used easily to ban any books with LGBTQ content, reproductive health, race, gender, and identity. Librarians will be subject to harassment and exorbitant consequences; kids will lose access to important, age-appropriate books; and so many people will lose out on educational reading. As a parent, library patron, college instructor, and writer, I oppose this bill and urge the committee to vote NO. Let families choose what their kids read, not the state.

Kathy Smith
Self
Katy, TX

Please support HB3225 so that children will
Be better protected from exposure to sexually explicit content in public libraries.

Bess Brooks
Self
Dallas, TX

!

Sandra Morgan
Rebulican
Dallas, TX

I an in favor of this bill! No need for these kind of books in our children's libraries.

Tiffany Yates Martin
self
Austin, TX

As a career editor in the publishing business and an author myself, I'm chilled by the implication of HB 3225. The vague wording in terms such as "describes or depicts" sexual conduct opens the door to unconstitutional censorship of what material is available to the public, and removes the determination of what to read from individuals and parents to the hands of an authoritative government. Moreover, the proposal that a library that is found to violate the law may be defunded in the following fiscal year, in addition to being subject to penalties of \$10,000 for each violation, is a scare tactic designed to make libraries steer clear of books that might prompt challenges, which are often works by LGBTQIA+ or BIPOC authors and/or on diverse topics. This legislation is discriminatory and unconstitutional, a grave overstepping of the government's authority, and I urge the House to vote against it.

Martha Johnson

Self

Boling, TX

I support this bill because it is abuse towards our children. Children should be protected from this content that is harmful to them.

Daniel Rodriguez, Mr.

Self

Harlingen, TX

Children need to be protected from content that exposes them to sexually explicit materials which are harmful to the lives as children.

Kaaren Teuber, Lt Col (retired)

Self

Van Alstyne, TX

I support the passage of HB3225. Why would anyone not want to protect the innocence of our young children? It's time that we as adults stop looking the other way and act. I encourage you to pass this bill.

Eleana Chavarria

Self

San Antonio, TX

Children don't need to be exposed to any of it at such early age

Frank Austin

Selg

San Antonio, TX

Please vote "yes" I am in favor of the Bill

Dennis Black

Self

Whitehouse, TX

Protect our precious children and grandchildren from being exposed to this evil

Karen Simpson

Self

College Station, TX

I strongly support HB3225. Our public libraries should be safe environments for children, including teens, free from sexually explicit material. This bill provides clear standards and accountability, ensuring taxpayers dollars aren't funding inappropriate content for minors. Please vote yes for HB3225

Michael Conway

Self

Crossroads, TX

Children are too young to understand the content. The bill helps parents protect their child, same as when I was a teenager and couldn't access inappropriate content. The content causes confusion for the child which can then lead to depression. Help parents protect their child.

William Wilson

Self, software engineer

Austin, TX

Opposed. Texas has many problems, but minors being harmed by exposure to sexually explicit materials in libraries is not one of them. This is simply not a thing that happens and so this bill solves no problems. Instead, it will waste time and taxpayer money with the only effect being that minors have less access to books including educational health books and many works of classic literature.

Look no further than the exemption for religious materials for proof that this doesn't make sense. According to this bill's priorities, it's okay for a 10 year old to read the Kama Sutra, but a 17 year old isn't mature enough to read The Catcher in the Rye

Felicia Wilson

Self, SAHM

Spring, TX

Libraries already have books sectioned off by appropriate age group. What's more, most libraries have rules about adults being with small children when they enter the adult section of the library. Let parents and caregivers do their job and keep the government overreach out of our libraries. This is a frivolous bill that will not protect children but will simply cost taxpayers more money to enforce.

Zachary Mathes, mr

self

San Antonio, TX

This bill should not be passed. The bill is written so vaguely that this would just end up restricting most children just the child's section or young adult in fear of getting arrested. In addition children should be allowed to pick whatever book they want, sure adults should give suggestions (ie you won't like this book because you won't know the topic), but children should decide if they like the book, and if they want to read it.

Sabrina Ball, Mrs

Self

Fort Worth, TX

The efforts by the state of Texas to limit the access of information (free speech) under the guise of obscenity is clearly a violation of the constitutional rights of Americans and a waste of taxpayers dollars. The state will be sued and will lose just like you all wasted everyone's time and money with HB300 in the last session. Your obsession with sex is perverted and authoritative. You do not believe in freedom. You believe in restricting the rights and freedoms of others while you personally read whatever you want and do whatever you want. Get out of the library and focus on the economy.

Trisha Yardley

self-nurse

Austin, TX

Against--The bans appear to have the sole purpose of banning books for kids/young people that are struggling with acceptance/understanding of their life. Shoot even people that have been living in a lie of going with social norms to appease the people...but, then realize that this has sent them in a spiral of unhappiness. If they are unable to talk with family, friends, guidance counselor for the understanding of their own thoughts on their own sexuality it increases risk of suicide. Books of pornography involving pictures have never really been allowed in the library. Books that discuss understanding/educates should never be banned. Smut/romance books should then be on the banned list if LGBTQTi+ are.

Karen Hill
Solomon's Porch
Whitehouse, TX

Solomon's Porch Ministries: NEXT,
We need help to get online comment voting in favor of this bill to keep it alive to get it passed through committee and onto the floor.

Will you please click this link, scroll down to Bill 3225, by Representative Alders, vote YES IN FAVOR of the bill and leave this comment:

"I am in favor of this bill as children do not need access to sexually explicit content"

Please respond by 2pm today to ensure your vote is registered. LET'S MAKE HISTORY AND PROTECT TEXAS CHILDREN!

Shawna Possy
Self
New Braunfels, TX

I am in favor of this bill as children do not need access to sexually explicit content.

Linda Ware
Self, Young Adult Author
Abilene, TX

I'm a young adult author publishing under the name Amber Hamilton, and I am a lifelong Texan. My next book, *Seven Deadly Thorns*, is a major release coming out this year with the same publisher behind *Harry Potter* and *A Court of Thorns and Roses*. I've chosen to live in Texas, to launch my books here, and to write for the teens growing up in this state—because their stories matter.

House Bill 3225 puts all of that at risk. It allows books to be labeled “sexually explicit” without clearly defining what that means. That kind of vague language opens the door to banning books based on personal discomfort, not actual harm.

My book explores young love, identity, and self-acceptance. Like all young adult fiction, it deals with complex, emotional, and yes—sometimes messy—topics. That's exactly why it's important. If this bill passes, my book, and so many others, might be pulled from public libraries before readers even get the chance to find themselves in those pages.

Texas teens deserve access to stories that reflect who they are and what they're going through. Please don't take that away from them.

Ardis Geurts
Self
San Antonio, TX

Yes, i am in favor of this bill as children do not need access to sensually explicit content

Bob Wallace

Self

Llano, TX

Minors should not be exposed to graphic sex acts, like illegal sex acts or pictures of sex acts or sex organs. It's shocking what is in books these days. This bill does not "ban" books but rather locates those books in the Adult sections of libraries.

If we send children out addicted to porn, they will never have a normal sexual relationship for the rest of their lives. We must do better. I urge you to vote YES on this common sense bill.

Debra Hill

Self

San Angelo, TX

FOR

Judith Rodriguez

Self

Kyle, TX

I am in favor of the bill as children do not need access to sexual explicit materials.

James Nobile, Mr

Myself and I

Amarillo, TX

For

Sophia Richardson

Self

Austin, TX

Against

Vincent Aramendia

Self

Seguin, TX

I am in favor of this bill as children do not need access to sexually explicit content.

Pama Nobile, Mrs

Myself and I

Amarillo, TX

Pass it

Bill Martin

Self

San Angelo, TX

FOR... to protect our children!

Gregg LaMontagne

Self

Austin, TX

This is an effort to restrict information which runs counter to the free flow of information. Second, keeping children away from any materials is the responsibility of their parents and no one else. Who are you to usurp those responsibilities from parents? Third, how are you enforcing this? Are public libraries now hiring bouncers to check ID's? What does this do to libraries as places of inquiry? Is this even a problem? If so how in the name of heaven did we survive this in the past.

The legislature should focus on real issues that affect Texans. Supporting education, healthcare, the economy of the state and not on made up problems

Angelique Gonzalez-Page

Self

Austin, TX

Hi, my name is Angelique Gonzalez-Page. I am against this bill. This legislative session seems to be focused on parental choice. In my opinion, this bill takes away my choice as a parent on what kind of materials my children can read in a public library. I grew up poor in San Antonio and Austin before we had computers in our pockets. The library was magical to me. I love to read and I am trying to teach my kids my love of books. I want my children to have the ability to walk around in their public library and explore all the books like I did as a kid. To touch them, to smell them, to grab a book out of the shelf and flip through it and get lost in it. I am a mom and I volunteer at my children's elementary school. I enjoy teaching kids my love of the library. Nothing gets me more excited than to see children get excited about a book they just discovered. Sometimes I have request for books that carry more weight. A 5th grader asked for Fahrenheit 451. Who do you think recommended that book? His dad. So, parents are the ones who are sending their kids to the library to get these books so they can read it and talk about it. Do not restrict access to the library to our children. Let parents do the hard job of teaching and raising our kids. We aren't doing our children any favors by limiting their access to books. The internet and the nightly news have scarier stuff on them. When I read this bill I believe that legislators view libraries as having the same materials as an adult book store. This is so far from the truth. I feel like the authors believe they have a real fear but I don't see it. I believe there are more important matters to address then attacking our libraries. We need to encourage our kids to put down their phones and tablets and open a book. It will expand their minds and improve their reading comprehension which they will need for the rest of their life. Thank you for your time. Please reach out if you have any questions.

Janie Brittain

Self

Garland, TX

I strongly support HB 3225. Our public libraries should be free from sexually explicit material. It is an abomination that Texans' taxpayer dollars are spent on inappropriate content for minors. Please vote YES on HB 3225 to help make Texas libraries family-friendly.

Kaitlin Colegate

Red Stiletto Republican Women

new braunfels, TX

Honestly, just be a good human and get the crap out of our schools/public libraries. Did you have this growing up? No. Look where you are. Successful. Give our children the same opportunity of a clean learning place. Please vote YES on HB 3225 and help make Texas libraries family friendly.

James Speiran

GAWTP/Smihh County precinct chair

Bullard, TX

This is a must pass bill for our children. We must protect them from being exposed to explicit sexual materials. God does not approve of this behavior of his people.

Hannah Kruger

N/A

Kyle, TX

I am in favor of this bill as children do not need access to sexually explicit content.

Bonnie Berry

Hideaway Lake

Hideaway, TX

It is called common sense, something we don't see much of anymore! Adult books in the adult section!!!!

Krystal Herline

Self. Homemaker

Silsbee, TX

THNAK YOU for protecting our children and grandchildren from these inappropriate reading materials.

Clifton Cleere

Self

Whitehouse, TX

Stop letting public librarians place sexually explicit materials in the children's and young adult sections of our libraries. It is extremely damaging to their minds and well being.

La Queta Shelburne

Self

San Angelo, TX

For our children!

Naomi Schulenberg

Solomon's Porch

San Marcos, TX

"I am in favor of this bill as children do not need access to sexually explicit content"

Joseph Hrechko

Self

New Braunfels, TX

YES IN FAVOR

Thurman Doyle, Mr

Self

Fred, TX

I agree with this bill

Kathryn Owens

Self - Administrative Assistant

Castroville, TX

I am in favor of this bill as children do not need access to sexually explicit content.

Charlotte Wilson

Self/retired

Tyler, TX

I am for this bill and getting sexually explicit books out of the children's section of the library.

Jeralee Smith, Ms

self

Bonham, TX

Please pass this bill because its provisions are needed to increase protection of Texas kids from being sexualized.

Denise Rives

Self

Granbury, TX

I am FOR Bill 3225. Please vote FOR Bill 3225 to stop sexualizing our children by having explicit materials available in the children's section of our libraries in Texas.

Scott Foster

self

Lakeway, TX

I think that we as a society should do more to keep children from sexually explicit materials in municipal public library collections and more importantly online.

Gregory Bentley

self

Flint, TX

Children should not be exposed to explicit, age inappropriate content in the public library and we should do everything we can to create safeguards to ensure their safety. This bill does not remove explicit content from the library--it just keeps it in the adult section where it belongs. Please pass HB 3225.

Phil Casali

self

Point, TX

support

Elizabeth Barber

self, retired

Fort Worth, TX

I oppose HB 3225 because it simply book banning by a small group of materials in a public facility imposing their ideas and values on the general public. We have already seen the banning of classics in our public schools. Protect our democracy instead.

Karys Alders

self

Nacogdoches, TX

The state should not give children access to explicit material. If a parent really does want their children to have access to pornographic content (which is twisted and perverted) they can do that in the privacy of their own household. To allow children to access these materials at public libraries is to civilly sanction abusing children.

Lauren Hodges

Self

New Braunfels, TX

I am in favor of this bill as children do not need access to sexually explicit content

Michael Belsick

Fredericksburg Tea Party

Fredericksburg, TX

I am FOR HB 3225

Stella Barbo

Myself

Canyon Lake, TX

I am in favor of this bill

Amanda Hendrix

Self

Manvel, TX

This bill violates parental choice for our children's reading material and attacks citizens' freedom to read what they choose. The bill's definitions of "sexually explicit material" and "sexual contact" are too broad and also infringe on a parent's ability to choose how to handle those situations with their children. In addition, material that is appropriate for a 16- or 17-year-old is closer to that of an adult 18 years and older than what would be appropriate for a 5-year-old. This bill does not allow for the sliding scale of appropriateness as children age closer to 18. As a parent of an 11-year-old and an 8-year-old, I strongly disagree with the contents of this bill.

William Cooley

Self (Pastor)

Canyon Lake, TX

I whole heartedly agree with HB 3225. Sexually explicit magazines are considered pornography and minors are not allowed to buy them. This being the case why should minors have access to explicit sexual materials just because they are published in book form and put in municipal libraries. Minors in their formative years should not have access to such books and publications.

LaFawn Thompson, Ms.

Self

New Braunfels, TX

I am in favor of this bill; children need protection from sexually explicit content. Adults need to protect the innocence of children.

Sara Saylor

Self. Occupation: mother

Austin, TX

I am a full-time mother of two young children. We visit Austin's public libraries several times per week. I oppose HB 3225 in part because the required annual review of collections would be costly and burdensome for library staff, diverting time and resources away from the important work they do supporting families like mine. I also oppose the bill on moral grounds, because I believe it will further entrench white Christian patriarchal dominance in our state.

The bill's religious exemption suggests that HB 3225 is not truly motivated by a desire to protect minors from encountering inappropriate sexual content. The bill provides no justification for libraries allowing minors to access the Bible, which contains explicit sexual content including incest. I ask any legislators who are truly committed to protecting kids to demonstrate this commitment by removing the religious exemption clause.

Additionally, I ask that legislators amend the bill's language to clarify whether HB 3225 would require libraries to prohibit minors from entering and browsing in adult sections. If not, then how will minors be prevented from seeing sexually explicit books in those sections? If so, then how will this requirement be enforced, and how will libraries be compensated for the work of making adults-only sections (as well as many electronic and audio materials) inaccessible to minors? I believe that parents who wish to monitor and restrict their children's reading should be responsible for doing this work themselves; instead, this bill would force that work onto library personnel at taxpayers' expense.

I am concerned that HB 3325 will infringe upon Texas children's freedom to read about topics that matter to them, as well as their freedom to read a diverse range of authors. In recent years, conservatives across the nation have used the pretext of "protecting children from sexual content" to restrict minors' access to important literary and artistic works, predominantly those by queer and racially marginalized people. Though proponents of HB 3225 may mean well, I believe the bill's actual effect will be to make Texas minors both less free and less safe. When my children become adolescents and begin to have questions about sex, I hope that they will be able to access accurate, informative books about safe sex, sexuality, gender, and consent. My children will also be safer (from unwanted sexual contact, infection, and unwanted pregnancy) if their peers are also able to access these resources. In Texas today, an adolescent girl who becomes pregnant will be forced by law to endure pregnancy and birth against her will. Yet if HB 3225 passes, that same girl would be unable to access potentially life-saving information about safe sex and pregnancy prevention at her local library. I do not feel that my daughter would be made any safer by this unjust state of affairs.

Thank you for considering my comment.

Sara Saylor, PhD

Ann Rose

self - literary agent

Spring, TX

The wording of this bill alone is horse poop. No one is giving minors sexually explicit materials and the fact that this bill excludes the bible, which is full on incest, rape, and a list of "questionable" things, just goes to show how unserious the people behind this bill are. Book banners will always be on the wrong side of history. How do you want to be remembered?

Sharonda Harguess

Self advocacy

Hawkins, TX

If as a parent I would not approve my minor child to read Playboy and Hustler then I do not expect them to be able to go and check out material which is almost identical in nature. If the argument is some material needs to be available for educational usage then no one would have a problem with the requirement of the apparent checking it out. This also involves them in having knowledge of what their children have possession of and are learning from. My local school district prior to any of bills being passed for either schools or libraries already had implemented a behind the counter system for some books. Just as a parent has to give permission to go on a field trip in our school the same parent has to give permission for a child to read certain things. we the parents have final decisions in our children we the taxpayers have the right to decide how our money is being used by our government. If our children are not allowed to be in possession of such thing's then why are we funding a wrong as well as providing harmful access. I vote for House Bill 3225 by alders. This bill needs to be passed to limit exposure for our children. Thank you Sharonda

Nathan Roberts

Self

Dallas, TX

I am in favor of this Bill. The fact that is even open for opinion is disgusting. You were born with a moral compass. Use it.

Diana Chambless

self

Bullard, TX

I Support this Bill! We need a solution that actually works in our children's best interest. Thanks to library book audits, we have compiled irrefutable, damning evidence that sexually explicit material is being made available to minors in public libraries across Texas. There is No Debate on this, we have the receipts. We need this simple yet powerful law. It clearly defines what is sexually explicit by referring to Texas Penal Code 43.25. This makes it SIMPLE to determine whether a book contains such content. We cannot count on the subjective opinion of librarians who shelved these books in the minor's sections in the first place. And understand this: This is NOT BANNING BOOKS, IT IS MOVING BOOKS. It's that simple. Just move the books to the appropriate section...it's not hard to do.

Ruth Chambers

New Braunfels Conservatives

Bulverde, TX

I am IN FAVOR of this bill because children do not need access to sexually explicit material in our public libraries! Thank you!

Stephanie Balderas, Mrs.

Self/Mother

San Angelo, TX

FOR

Amy Moore

Self

Hereford, TX

I am opposed to HB 3225 and would urge you not to vote it out of committee. This is a bill that undermines our professional librarians across the state. Our municipal librarians know their communities and their collections best. They should be allowed to follow existing library policies, at the municipal and state level that currently exist, that currently provide for screening materials for minors. Creating new committees and bureaucracy will only result in limiting families' choices within our public library systems.

Rebecca Morgan, Mrs

Self

Bullard, TX

It is imperative that this bill is passed for the mental and physical health and well being of our minor youth.

Elizabeth Jones

Self

Bullard, TX

Minors should never have public access sexually explicit material , especially in a public library or forum! We must protect our children! Thank you

JoAnn Fleming, Executive Director

Grassroots America - We the People PAC

Flint, TX

Grassroots America – We the People PAC strongly supports HB 3225.

There is NEVER a righteous reason to give a child pornography – pervasively vulgar material – which normalizes pedophilia, graphically and in written detail describes all manner of sexual acts – including violent acts of incest and rape.

Our public libraries should be safe environments for children (including teens), free from sexually explicit material. This bill provides clear standards and accountability, ensuring taxpayer dollars aren't funding inappropriate content for minor children.

After the successful passage of HB 900 The READER Act last session, which mandated library standards for public schools, HB 3225 extends those protections to ALL public libraries – with serious consequences for noncompliance.

This bill is necessary because too many city and county government officials are ignoring pleas from protective parents and grandparents to clean up the children's section of the public libraries.

How does HB 3225 protect children?

- Removes sexually explicit content from areas accessible to minors
- Requires age verification to check out such material (including digital formats)
- Enforces compliance with fines up to \$10,000 per violation
- Cuts taxpayer funding for noncompliant libraries for an entire year
- Empowers the Attorney General to prosecute violations
- Defines "sexually explicit material" using Penal Code Section 43.25 and ensures no child stumbles upon the kind of harmful content we are repeatedly finding in the children's sections of public libraries.

Please vote YES on HB 3225 and help make Texas libraries family friendly.

Jimmy Martinez

Self

Corpus Christi, TX

I am in favor of this bill. Please protect the children of Texas!

AL Stein

Self

Bullard, TX

This needs to be passed! Protect our kids!

Eliazar Cisneros

Self/ retired

San Antonio, TX

Why is this even up for debate. NO CHILD should have ANY access to explicit material, especially when it's being state sponsored. We must protect our children.

Beth Beard

Self

Bullard, TX

Definitely not for minors

Gail Muse

Self

Bullard, TX

I support the HB 3225 And I'm asking that you do everything within your power to get this past

Drew Pressoir

"Self" pastor

Tyler, TX

Sexually explicit material is a corrupting influence on who all observe it. The government is responsible to safeguard its people from evil. Therefore, sexually explicit material should have no place in government libraries and especially should not be available for children. Any civil official who refuses to safeguard the children of Texas from these materials is actively contributing to the corruption and abuse of our children.

Peter Geurts

Self

San Antonio, TX

I am in favor of this bill as children do not need access to sexual explicit content.

Sheryl Chapman

Self

Lakeway, TX

I'm in FAVOR of the bill HB3225 because children should be protected from all harmful content.

Dorothy Walker

Self

Bullard, TX

In full

Support of this bill

Gaylyn DeVine

DeVine Promotions

Pearland, TX

100% in favor of NOT allowing sexually explicit materials in publicly funded libraries! Our tax dollars should never be used for this sexually explicit material in any way!

Please pass this legislation and Stop Sexualizing Texas Kids!

BILL KING

self - retired judge

Austin, TX

This bill turns parental freedom on its head. If parent A doesn't want his child A to read a particular book, that is something they should deal with together. That is parental freedom. If parent B does want child B to read a particular book, that is something they should deal with together. That is parental freedom. But if parent A wants to restrict what child B can read, that is the denial of parental freedom for parent B. Freedom of speech and thought and the practice of religion does not mean that you have the right to force me to speak and think and practice the religion that you want. Those are my rights and, as a parent, they are the rights I exercise for my children.

Public libraries are not pornography shops. Although Texas, like all of the South, is a major viewer and purchaser of pornography, pornography shop books, films and materials are not available in public libraries. Stop forcing the nanny state on Texans and let adults and parents make the decisions for themselves and their families.

Allison Watkins

Self

Austin, TX

VOTE NO!

Christy Monroe

Self

Canyon Lake, TX

I am for this bill children do not need to be subject to explicit books

Gwendolyn Wuori

Self

Longview, TX

I support HB 3225

Tammy Quinters

Self

Floresville, TX

I am in favor of this bill as children do not need access to sexually explicit content"

Audrey Pongetti

Self/ self employed , real estate sales

Tyler, TX

As a resident of Texas, I am in favor of and support this bill so minors will not be able to access sexually explicit material in our public libraries.

Sherrill Tompkins

Self

Bullard, TX

Please pass this bill to protect our children.

Donna Baade
Self retired
League City, TX

Please remove access by minors of all sexually explicit materials in municipal libraries. Please protect children from access to porn, thank you

Mildred Stubblefiekd
Self
Bullard, TX

I am a very concerned Grandmother who believes pronagraphy should not be exposed to young minds. Things such as this subject should be at the discretion of their parents and not public libraries. This subject matter should only be in the adult section for people with maturity can understand it. I want to teach my children and grandchildren good morales that lead to a healthy sexual understand, not a perverted one. Please VOTE YES on HB 3225 for the sake of our children and those to come.

Glenna McKenzie
Self
Paint Rock, TX

To protect our children's minds

Donna McAleer
Montgomery County Republican Executive Committee/Precinct 61 Chair
The Woodlands, TX

I fully support HB 3225 in protecting our children from sexually explicit materials in our public schools and libraries. This bill aligns with our Republican Priority of Stop Sexualizing Our Children.

Thank you for your support,
Donna McAleer
Montgomery County Precinct Chair 61

Stanley Cofer, President
Texas Minority Coalition
Tyler, TX

We must protect our children from sexual grooming.

CLAUDIA GHIO
Self
West Lake Hills, TX

I am AGAINST this bill.

Donna Hutson
Bowie County precinct chair #29
De Kalb, TX

I support a bill that prohibits sexually explicit materials in Texas public libraries for children and teens. Thank you!!

Kenny Bilbro
Self
San Antonio, TX

I am in favor of this bill as children do not need access to sexually explicit content.

Jarrold Yeager

Family

Tyler, TX

Please pass!!!!

Emily Jewell

My family

Tyler, TX

Please pass. I miss taking my children to the library!!

Sarah Ivory

Self

Austin, TX

I'm a former public school teacher and a Mom. I have three kids: Harrison, Penny, and Theo. I was born and raised in Texas and have always been deeply proud of my Texan roots, but this bill I find embarrassing as a Texan and infuriating as a parent.

You see I always wanted to be a mother. I loved my job as an educator and I was really good at it but motherhood feels like my true calling. Everything else I do, career-wise, socially, personally, is based on how it will benefit my kids either now or in the future. I spend countless hours studying child development and parenting books and agonizing over decisions and how they will affect my children. I absolutely delight in the raising of my children. They are the joy and the light of my life.

One of our favorite things to do, especially during the summer, is go to the public library and pick out books to read. I walk around with them, we talk about what they want to read about, we test out books that look good, and then we go home and we read them together. It's the absolute best. At no point, have I ever thought "my god, we need some laws limiting my kids access to this place." That would be crazy. Because I don't need a law to help me parent my kids appropriately and with intention.

Throughout this legislative session, I've heard several of you constantly claiming to fight for parents rights, and claiming that parents should be able to make choices for their children. And yet, we are here listening to a bill undermining my rights as a parent to choose what my child is exposed to and how.

I do believe that knowledge is power, I want my kids to read everything they can get their hands on. I was a reading teacher, reading with my kids has been one of the things I've looked forward to most as a mom. I think this bill hurts children, and it takes rights away from Texan parents. Banning books and censoring libraries does not belong in Texas, it does not belong in America.

Jennifer Curry

Self and children

San Antonio, TX

Sexually explicit materials DO NOT belong in schools or public libraries!

Joshua Settersten

Self

Round Rock, TX

"I am in favor of this bill as children do not II I am in favor of this bill as children do not need access to sexually explicit content

Rachel HALE
RPT County Chair / Myself
HENDERSON, TX

I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB 3225 - please pass out of committee! HB 3225 is strongly supported by the RPT and it aligns with legislative priority Stop Sexualizing TX Kids. The state ABSOLUTELY has a compelling interest to protect the innocence of minors. The books simply just need to be removed from the kids section and go to the adult section of the library. Libraries across the state have had several YEARS to make this happen & it is clear by the lack of inaction as well as by all the registered comments from librarians they have NO DESIRE to protect children. We need the state to intervene due to the fact these librarians lack the desire to protect innocent minds. There is NEVER a reason to give porn to a child & we MUST do better! Please pass this bill out of committee!

Rachel Hale
Rusk Co Chairwoman

Abby Settersten
Self
Austin, TX

I AM IN FAVOR OF THIS BILL AS CHILDREN DO NOT NEED ACCESS TO SEXUALLY EXPLICIT CONTENT

Kate Chapman
Self/stay at home mother
Trophy Club, TX

I am in favor of this bill as children do not need access to this sexual content.

Craig Licciardi
Self / transportation sales
FLINT, TX

Texas NEEDS this law passed immediately. There are so many instances, especially in my own home city of Tyler, where the library staff is VERY out of step with the vast majority of the local culture, and has been intransigent regarding repeated efforts to protect children from this explicit sexual material. Having been involved in the effort to clean our library up, I have seen the disgusting content myself and it's beyond unconscionable for it to be accessible by anyone, much less children. This law won't go all the way and get rid of the smut, but it will force libraries to at least put a lock on it so kids can't pollute their minds with it. Please vote YES on HB 3225. Let your colleagues know that a vote against HB 3225 as written, is encouraging, aiding, and abetting child sexual abuse. Thanks!

Michael Belsick
Fredericksburg Tea Party
Fredericksburg, TX
FOR HB 3225

Ana Salas-Porras
Self
Austin, TX

I oppose this bill. Our Library System already has guidelines in place to select appropriate materials. I do not want the definition of "sexually explicit materials" left up to the Texas Legislature. This will limit parents rights to allow their children to read materials appropriate to their child's maturity. Some of the books being deemed "inappropriate" are award-winning books. VOTE NO.

Lisa Furlow

Self

Plano, TX

Bill HP 3225 must be passed to protect our children!

IRMA JOHNSON

self

Bastrop, TX

“I strongly support HB 3225. Our public libraries should be safe environments for children, including teens – free from sexually explicit material. This bill provides clear standards and accountability, ensuring taxpayer dollars aren’t funding inappropriate content for minor children. Please vote YES on HB 3225 and help make Texas libraries family friendly.”

I grew up in a family where my father kept porn. My sisters and I were subjected to his sick approaches. I was in my teens and felt unsafe in my own home. I was afraid my dad would rape me! How can you approve of normalizing this mental depravity? How many boys will grow up to be sick with this and abuse their spouses or daughters, and maybe even their sons? JUST STOP THIS NOW!!!!

Britta Jensen

Self, Author

Austin, TX

Hi, my name is Britta Jensen. I oppose HB3225 that will be heard by the State Affairs Committee today. For years, we have been told that books being removed from public school libraries and classrooms, are not book bans, because parents and students can find those books at their local public library. Now, this bill is proposing to restrict our kids' access to books in our local public libraries, too. As the bill is written, there is not even an option for parents to opt out of the restricted access for their own children. Parents- not the government- should determine what books are and are not appropriate for their own children to read. Please protect Texas parent's rights, and stop HB3225. I do not want my children or my community's children having books banned or not having access to public libraries. This bill feels like it's a way to cause illiteracy in our beloved state. As a former 7-12 educator, I care deeply about our children and their parents deciding what their children can and cannot read.

Teddye Read

Self / CVRW / SARW

San Angelo, TX

Vote YES. Our children should not see any harmful material in their library or the public library

Julia Kovach

self/caregiver

Austin, TX

Dear Esteemed Representatives and Committee members,

I am a parent of two school aged children here in Texas and am opposed to HB 3225. This bill would cause damage to our beloved libraries and librarians. Please show that you actually trust parents to choose what their children can or cannot have access to read. If you truly believe in parent choice, you will oppose HB 3225 as well.

Megan Metcalf
self, medical student
San Antonio, TX

I am strongly opposed to HB 3225. As a student and lifelong Texas resident, I love our libraries and have benefited greatly from access to their wonderful digital and physical collections. Over time, I have personally checked out over 400 items from my library's collection, including fiction, reference books, study materials, and movies. Recently I have been enjoying checking out cookbooks from the library to try new recipes. Everyone benefits from free access to our library collections.

I am a fourth year medical student about to graduate and enter medical residency, and I can tell you firsthand that medical textbooks and reference books include diagrams and material that would be targeted under this bill. While Texans grapple with an ongoing shortage of physicians, HB 3225 would make it very difficult for high school students who cannot afford expensive medical textbooks to explore and study medical knowledge, placing a barrier between bright young students and achieving their dreams. I personally know a high school student who is already dedicated to becoming a doctor, and is involved in assisting with clinical research. I want her to have access to whatever knowledge she seeks, and I believe most Texans feel the same way.

This bill also places a serious burden on libraries, requiring them to dedicate staffing, resources, and our tax money to overhauling the way library collections and their electronic systems work, and then review these very extensive collections annually. To give an idea of just how extensive these collections are, the San Antonio Public Library added 13,867 items to its collection in just the last 3 months (as of the time of writing this comment). No library in the country has the time or resources to truly and thoroughly evaluate every item in its collection, which means decisions will be made based on limited information, even more books will be restricted, and kids across our state will be the ones facing the consequences.

Thank you for taking the time to read my statement, and please oppose HB 3225.

Sandra McCarrie
Self
Greenville, TX

"I strongly support HB 3225. Our public libraries should be safe environments for children, including teens – free from sexually explicit material. This bill provides clear standards and accountability, ensuring taxpayer dollars aren't funding inappropriate content for minor children. Please vote YES on HB 3225 and help make Texas libraries family friendly."

Carol Walliser
Grassroots we the people USA
Tyler, TX

I'm retired but employed part time as a caregiver. I want this bill passed to protect school children in Texas from the porn and LGBTQ influences in our public schools. Please put a stop to this travesty and pass the bill.

Angela Tweedie
Self-Retired
Tyler, TX

"I strongly support HB 3225. Our public libraries should be safe environments for children, including teens – free from sexually explicit material. This bill provides clear standards and accountability, ensuring taxpayer dollars aren't funding inappropriate content for minor children. Please vote YES on HB 3225 and help make Texas libraries family friendly."

Marielle Hamrick
self, Registered Nurse
Round Rock, TX

Books have been banned from classrooms from years, this is not something new. This has been somewhat mitigated by the availability of "banned books" in public libraries. However HB 3225 seeks to further restrict access of materials deemed "inappropriate" for our youth of today. As this bill is written, there is not an option for parents to opt out of restricted access. Parents should be integral to determining what books are and are not appropriate for their children to read - a conversation that can be encouraged with the facilitation of the availability of the materials and the guidance of the parent and the skills utilized by our librarians who oversee the public library. Limiting our childrens access to books, limiting their knowledge, putting blinders on them to the world only strives to make a world that is less friendly to our neighbors, near and abroad. Vote no to HB 3225.

Jessica Hollingsworth
Self
Elkhart, TX

What kind of Orwellian hellscape is the state trying to send us into? Of course, anyone under 18 would now not be able to understand that reference, as 1984 would fall under your dangerously broad definition of sexually explicit. It is incomprehensible to me that the state feels it has the right to censor individual public libraries in any manner. This is a short sighted bill, completely disregarding a minor's rights and education.

Mariah Boone
Self
Corpus Christi, TX

I am testifying in opposition to HB 3225, which is a bill that ignorantly attacks our libraries in the guise of protecting children. Libraries do not provide actually sexually explicit books to young children. Many of the books that this bill's supporters deem to be "sexually explicit" are in fact books about young characters who have same-gender parents, as if these children do not deserve to see their families with two moms or two dads represented as much as children living in homes with a mom and a dad. Bills like this advanced a bigoted agenda and target the professional librarians who provide so many invaluable services to our communities. Stop banning innocent books and stop threatening librarians - vote no on this bill.

Rebecca Baumgartner

Self, Writing Tutor

Allen, TX

I am the mother of an elementary school aged child, and I am asking you to vote "no" on HB 3225. This bill doesn't allow parents to opt out of restricted library access for their own children, and I find this deeply concerning. Parents – not the government – should be the ones determining which books are appropriate for their own children to read. For years, we've been told by conservative politicians that families should be allowed to make their own decisions about matters like this, and conservatives have long decried the so-called "nanny state" that removes agency and freedom of choice from citizens. This makes the current bill seem highly hypocritical and self-contradictory.

Likewise, the strange exemption for religious materials in this bill begs the question of why sexual explicitness in a young adult novel is morally reprehensible, but descriptions of incest, rape, bigamy, prostitution, infidelity, bestiality, and other forms of sexual violence that appear with disturbing regularity in the Bible are completely acceptable. I cannot think of a justification for this strange exception that doesn't violate the Establishment Clause of the First Amendment.

Many minors, especially older teenagers, quickly grow out of the children's sections at their local library and often need access to the general collection to conduct research or find reading material at their level. I was one such student. If I had been restricted to the children's section as an eager 17-year-old bookworm, I would have failed to discover books that expanded my horizons, helped me excel in school, and enabled me to attend a high-quality university.

The current bill, in addition to making libraries less welcoming and useful for students, would also create undue hardships on library staff. The amount of work it would require to sort through every book in the collection to ensure it doesn't contain anything that the state of Texas has arbitrarily decided is "sexually explicit" would be wasteful and inefficient in the extreme. Libraries are already strapped for resources – thanks to the policies of the current president – and this current bill would pile more unnecessary work onto staff members who are already under-paid, under-appreciated, and continually having to make do with less. There isn't even clarity in this bill about what counts as "sexually explicit" material – would two characters kissing count as "sexually explicit"? What about scientific discussions of the reproductive system?

Conservative families who clutch their pearls at the thought of their children learning of the existence of gay people or understanding how their own bodies work are more than welcome to restrict what their children are allowed to read. But the preferences of one prudish group of people should not be made the law of the land. For all of these reasons, I encourage you to vote "no" on HB 3225.

Elizabeth Schrier

Self

Denton, TX

I am writing to express my strong opposition to HB 3225.

This bill isn't about keeping kids safe—it's about control. It overrides parental rights under the guise of "protection" and cuts off access to the very spaces where young minds grow. As a parent and a library professional, I find that unacceptable.

When I was twelve, I stumbled across *The Color Purple* in my public library. No teacher assigned it to me. No adult told me it was "age-appropriate." But that book cracked open my world. It taught me about injustice, resilience, and the quiet power of a voice that refuses to be silenced. It made me more empathetic. It made me braver.

Now I see my son doing the same—digging through shelves, finding himself in unexpected stories. That's the magic of the library. It's not sterile, sanitized, or made-for-TV—it's real. And it's vital.

This bill would block that. It hands the government the power to decide what my child can read, without offering me the right to say, "No thanks. I trust my kid. I trust myself." That's not protecting families. That's undermining them.

Vote NO on HB 3225. Trust Texas parents. Trust Texas readers. Don't let fear do the legislating.

Crystal Garcia

Self - Sales Manager/Literary Advocate

Corpus Christi, TX

Greetings to the House of Representatives and all others present to discuss HB 3225. My name is Crystal Garcia and I'm a South Texas Native. I wanted to share because this is in regards to an important issue: censorship. Since we live in the U.S. then that means with the First Amendment, we have freedom of speech. To give some background on myself, I'm a former podcaster (Revolve One if anyone's curious), a published poet, and will always consider myself a student of life. Ever since I was a kid, I loved to read and learn new things. Forgive me if I seem to have a distraught or upset tone, as learning and gleaning bits of life and knowledge from books of all kinds is what played a crucial role in my development—especially through adolescence. I believe the last thing we need is to be banning or deeming something "forbidden" is simply counterproductive because it'll only make the banned book or forbidden thing that much more alluring to obtain. I believe it is up to the parents &/or legal guardians of children to supervise what books are most age and content appropriate. The government does not need to dictate what children and young adults can or can't read. With that statement, I hope you'll take into serious consideration my plea to not ban or restrict access to books in our public libraries. Understandably books promoting hate or violence is something to be cautious of, but I doubt any books containing such matter are even being considered at this time. In closing, I'd like to share a quote from my favorite author Ray Bradbury:

"You don't have to burn books to destroy a culture. Just get people to stop reading them."

Thank you for your attention to this profoundly important matter and protect literary freedom by voting "No" on HB 3225.

Mark Smith

Self, retired.

Austin, TX

I oppose this bill and urge the committee to not vote to refer this bill out of committee. This bill is detrimental to the public interest on multiple levels. First, it is based on a premise that there are large amounts of sexually explicit materials in the children's rooms of libraries. This is not the case. Second, while the bill purports to protect children from harmful materials by segregating them into parts of the library inaccessible by children, the library is already set up that way. Age-appropriate children's materials are kept in the children's room, materials suitable to teens are kept where teens can find them, and adult material is in the adult section. Trained librarians guide children to age-appropriate materials and parents pay attention to what their children are accessing in the library. Libraries have operated under this model for decades without incident. To establish further unnecessary barriers to access will be to interfere with parents' ability to make decisions about what their children access in the library. Furthermore, putting the Texas State Library and Archives Commission in an enforcement role is entirely inappropriate. Even if such authority is appropriate to that agency--which it is not--with over 500 public libraries in the state, such enforcement is far from possible or feasible. This bill creates unnecessary and unworkable solutions to a problem that does not exist and that has in fact never been a problem. I urge you not to refer this bill out of committee. Thank you.

Lucy Podmore

Self

SA, TX

I am urging you to keep access to our public libraries for our young people. Libraries represent a sense of community and the more obstacles you put in front of young people to access community resources the more likely they are to not utilize them. Please keep access to public libraries open for all and allow parents the right to make decisions for their child. I urge you to seek ways to expand the worldview of our children and not restrict it.

Adele Nelson, Dr.

Self

Austin, TX

Dear members of the State Affairs Committee, I write to express my opposition to HB 3225. Librarians are well-trained professionals with whom I trust decisions about the books held in our libraries, including those my children access. I have zero interest in school boards overseeing or interfering with these professionals or my own direct relationship as a parent & citizen with school & public library professionals. The effort to create unnecessary oversight & restrict the public's access to learning is offensive & anti-democratic. Sincerely, Adele Nelson

Teresa Gould

Self Homemaker and Caregiver

New Braunfels, TX

I am 100% behind the passing of this bill. 2 years ago, I was made aware of the pervasively vulgar reading materials that were taking root in the young readers section of our town libraries. I was encouraged to attend City Council meetings, along with other residents and concerned parents to speak about the presence of these books. When I saw from the first meeting how little regard the city leaders held for our input and the well-being of our kids, I was deeply distressed. I continued to attend each month, and stood up to speak on occasion. I tried to make my common sense argument that if society has barred minors from alcohol & cigarette purchases, strip clubs, and X-rated films, there is no rational, educational (or moral) explanation for exposing them to the sexually explicit content that is taking hold in the books, which are very purposefully cataloged and placed in teen and pre-teen spaces of our local libraries.

The onslaught of books added to the municipal library collection each year, by a handful of librarians who have no guide to the content, are filled with some of the darkest subject matter, the likes of which both the city leaders and library boards had no taste for hearing in the presence of their public meetings. And yet they will not lift a hand to remove these books, because it does not suit their political ambition to do so. Therefore the collection of these books keeps growing, and everyday unsuspecting adolescents looking for a new book, are exposed, ensnared, and potentially groomed by literature (and cartoon illustrations) that purport to be educational. In actuality, it's aimed at promoting under-age sex of all types, promiscuity, & illegal drug usage. Topics such as pedophilia are normalized, and links to human trafficking are present. Lives are destroyed and families are disrupted.

When minors are exposed to this material, they do not have the maturity to discern how inappropriate the topics are. When library personnel place these texts in the young reader section, it's as though they are actively being messaged that the books are explicitly for them to enjoy.

The State of Texas needs to enact HB 3225 as soon as possible in this session. We need to put an end to the educationally unsuitable and pervasively vulgar books that are on our library shelves. We need to enforce strong civil and financial punitive laws in order to bring this perversity to a grinding halt. HB 3225 also will empower parents and taxpayers to engage in municipal library oversight. Instead of destroying families, HB 3225 will put parental authority back into the hands of families.

Jasminne Mendez, Writer and Educator

Self, Writer

Houston, TX

As a writer, parent, and educator I am deeply concerned about the scope and overreach of this bill. I think all Texans including children and youth should have the right to access reading material and media that helps them learn how to be empathetic individuals. I believe that banning books is a form of censorship that goes against our constitutional right to free speech and no one should be allowed to determine what me or my child reads. I think the books and materials this bill would censor would harm all. Kids deserve to see themselves represented in books and this bill could ban and erase their lived experiences. Many young people also don't have access to books outside of their public libraries and this bill would further limit their access. I **STRONGLY OPPOSE** this bill and urge you to **NOT** pass it. This is harmful also to writers like me who write about hard and difficult topics for kids. But these topics are necessary in order to nurture caring and empathetic humans. This bill needs to be stopped or the long term consequences and damage will be felt for generations to come.

Yasmin Ramirez

Self

EL PASO, TX

I strongly oppose HB 3225. This bill is a direct attack on the freedom to read, learn, and think critically—freedoms that are foundational to both education and democracy. Targeting books and limiting access to information, especially for youth, is nothing short of government censorship.

This bill doesn't protect students—it stifles them. It sends a clear message that Texas lawmakers are more interested in controlling narratives than fostering informed, empowered citizens. We must trust educators, libraries, and families—not censorship committees.

Stop HB 3225. Protect the freedom to read.

Gretchen Murphy

self, teacher

Austin, TX

I am against this bill because children under 18 should be able to enter the general "adult" section of a library and check out books from that section without undue burden of a parent accompanying them. High school and some middle school children who read at a high level need to be able to access and read a wide variety of books. Many libraries will not be able to have large children/YA sections that appeal to readers at all levels. This bill tries to limit the choices of parents who want their children to be able to read widely. It's a bad bill and against American ideas of freedom of ideas and parent's choice.

Elisa Caballero

Self

Spring, TX

AGAINST.

The parameters of explicitness are too broadly defined and can easily be applied to educational materials. Denying sex education to children makes them more vulnerable to sexual abuse, as they may not have the knowledge to recognize it as abuse or to know who to tell or what to do. If we want minors to be safe from predators, they MUST have access to this information, even if it makes us uncomfortable. Our comfort as adults does not come before the safety of children.

There is also a long history of similar legislation being used against LGBT+ people. It is not illegal to be LGBT+; LGBT+ people are citizens; LGBT+ people have the same right to free speech as anyone else.

As a Texan, what I love about our state is our independence of thought and our fierce defense of our right to mind our own business and have others stay out of ours. Reader's advisory is the job of the parent, not the government.

Last of all, give kids more credit. I was a voracious reader as a child. I very quickly moved past children's books and was reading adult literature by the time I was 9. Many of those books were "inappropriate" for my age (the marketing category of "YA" did not exist yet). I was introduced to many concepts, some of which I understood and some of which I didn't. None of them instantaneously brainwashed me (though one did give me nightmares--it was CS Lewis, by the way). If a book made me uncomfortable, I put it down. If a concept was too adult, it flew over my head. I had engaged parents I could talk to about what I was reading (and teachers and friends). I don't regret any of my reading experiences as a child (even the nightmare one). They didn't sway me into any subcultures or traumatize me. What they turned me into is...an adult with a job and two cats. Their evillest influence was inducing me to read under the table when I should have been doing schoolwork. At the end of the day, they're just books. They contain no sinister magic.

Ignorance, however, is very dangerous.

Jolie Jennings

self, librarian

Liberty Hill, TX

I am writing today to oppose HB 3225 as a parent and as a school librarian. To limit access to the public library is to limit access to ideas and information. Many of the books we consider classics are housed in the adult fiction sections of the public library. Should Texas teens not be allowed read Out of Darkness (which centers around the New London school explosion)? The Last Picture Show? LONESOME DOVE? This bill also puts an undue burden on public libraries, particularly small and rural libraries, to physically separate the collections and restrict access to specific patrons based on age.

To remove age-appropriate, factual books written for children and teens about sex is problematic. Personally, I learned all about periods, puberty, and sex from library books because my parents were not equipped to talk about those topics with me. I'm forever grateful for the public library and access to all of its collections.

Breanne Sievila

Self

Montgomery, TX

This bill is very disturbing to me as it impinges on my rights as a parent to decide what my child can and cannot have access to. The bill is also written in such a way as to cast too wide of a net over "sexually explicit" material, which it does not meaningfully define, and can be used to deny access to books that would allow children to learn and grow in healthy ways. Would this deny a child who wants to be a doctor and is interested in learning more about medicine because the book they're interested in could be deemed "sexually explicit"? What about a child that is facing abuse and wants to figure out what is happening to them? Children should be allowed to learn at their own pace as well as without the permission of the state. This bill is in direct opposition to the freedom and parental rights that Texas purports to support.

Jacob Dorn

Self

Austin, TX

This bill is immoral, unconstitutional, and a blatant attack on children, families, and small businesses. Small independent bookstores create jobs and depend on libraries to help create the next generation of readers. This bill and its requirements are so vague and all-encompassing, that it would effectively BAR CHILDREN FROM ENTERING LIBRARIES. There is no conceivable benefit, and this will only do harm and restrict the rights of Texas families.

Laurel Stevens

self

The Woodlands, TX

HB 3225 is too restrictive. Broad definitions of "sexually explicit" would jeopardize children's and teens access to books. I homeschooled my children in Montgomery County, Texas and we visited the library weekly. I would stay downstairs with my younger child, and my older child browsed and found her own books upstairs--books related to history, philosophy, and fiction. This bill would have prevented her from doing so and would not even allow me to give her permission. Additionally, when my daughter had questions about sexuality, the children's section of the library was a place she could ask questions safely and find books such as The Care and Keeping of You, an American Girl book for ages 8 and up. She was able to learn about what was going on in her body without opening herself up to the dangers of an internet search. Yes we talked about these things, but she was empowered by seeking out this knowledge herself when she was ready, and I was proud of her.

As an educator, I am passionate about increasing children's and adults' access to libraries. HB 3225 is seeking to decrease it. In an age when many are asking if books are still relevant, we should be doing all we can do open doors to literacy, not shut them.

Trent Williams

Self

Pearland, TX

I oppose HB 3225. I am a Texas parent and I don't want the government infringing on my rights to raise my child the way I want to raise them.

I support libraries and librarians.

Every one should have access to public libraries, it's a parents role to restrict access, not the governments role.

Madison Diaz

Self

Kyle, TX

I am writing to oppose HB3225 that will be heard by the State Affairs Committee on Monday. For years, we have been told that books being removed from public school libraries and classrooms, are not book bans, because parents and students can find those books at their local public library. Now, this bill is proposing to restrict our kids' access to books in our local public libraries, too. As the bill is written, there is not even an option for parents to opt out of the restricted access for their own children. Parents- not the government- should determine what books are and are not appropriate for their own children to read. Please protect Texas parent's rights, and vote "no" on HB3225.

Adrianna Henderson

Self, author

Kyle, TX

HB 3225 is NOT about protecting children and WILL NOT protect the rights of Texans. It strips away the rights of Texans and will be a burden on all parents who want to take their children to the library, especially in rural areas where you have to walk through the general public (adult) section to get to the kids' section. This affects Texas parents and their children's futures. Studies show that access to books promotes reading and reading leads to better grades and more success as an adult. Limiting access to books through a vague and ignorant bill only being proposed to further a homophobic and racist agenda will be detrimental to the children of Texas.

Mary Selby

Self

Austin, TX

I am in opposition of HB3225. Our libraries are already safe places for learning and nothing needs to be fixed or changed. I trust my parenting skills, I trust my librarians and I trust established community norms that have been in place for DECADES. We don't need this bill and this is an overstep of government. Do not censor my ability to go to a library to have kids in a library. This is not what Texans want or need.

Kari Anne Holt

self

Austin, TX

When I was a kid taking Texas history in school, I learned that the great state of Texas was founded as a haven for people who want to fiercely protect their personal liberties. Not only that, Texas and Texans have always prided themselves as adamant supporters of small government and unsurpassed independence.

I know you all know this because you've dedicated yourselves to serving this great state and your own constituents. Keeping these foundational beliefs in mind, then, I ask you to strongly oppose HB 3225.

This bill is exactly the opposite of supporting personal liberty and independence. It is exactly the opposite of small government. In fact, HB 3225 reads like it's straight out of a Communist handbook: the government dictating which books their constituents have access to?? The government attempting to contain, control, and prescribe which reading materials their constituents are "allowed" to read??

The children of the great state of Texas have strong, intelligent, loving parents and guardians who are working very hard to raise the next generation of strong, intelligent, and loving Texans. On the other hand, members of the Texas state government do **not** serve as parents for their constituents or their constituents' children.

It is incredibly insulting to me and my family that the State would even consider such gross overreach into not just our own personal liberties and independence, but to do so in such an overtly paternalistic, communist-style, big government way.

Just imagine if the other side had a super majority and decided you and your family weren't "allowed" to read books about hunting or religion or how to safely clean a rifle. You would be outraged at their gall to even **think** they could strip you of your rights as a Texan and as a parent to make the right choices for yourself and your family. So why are you trying to strip your own constituents and their families of their independence? Do you not trust us to walk into a library, read any book we want (or that we deem appropriate for our own children), all while standing firm in our beliefs? Do you think we are so gullible, so unable to think and comprehend on our own that you must step in and flatly tell us what we and our children are "allowed" to read? Not only is that an un-Texan, un-American, and baldly Communistic sentiment, it is **insulting** that anyone serving in our state government would think their fiercely independent constituents would WANT this kind of "protective" overreach. It is, frankly, embarrassing you would think this kind of anti-freedom legislation would fly at all.

Please oppose HB3225 not just for what it is, but for what it stands for.

I beg you to redeem yourselves as Texans.

What Would James Bowie Do?

Marta Kvande

self

Lubbock, TX

I strongly oppose this bill because it restricts the basic freedom to read. The point of libraries is to make books available for anyone who wants to read them. This bill would make it extremely difficult, especially for small libraries, to keep their books accessible to all. When I was growing up, my parents encouraged me to read and took me to the library often, and they made sure I was able to browse any part of the library I wanted to and check out any book I was interested in. This freedom was an essential part of my intellectual growth, and every child in Texas deserves the same opportunity. Please reject this bill and make sure our kids can read whatever they want!

EARL Roberts, MR.
Dragoneze Consulting
San Antonio, TX

Apparently, the rePUBICLANSMEN and rePUBIClanswoMEN, have NEVER been in a PUBLIC library since the things they want to condemn are not in ANY PUBLIC LIBRARY in the UNITED STATES!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!! That means the "white" rePUBIClansmen and rePUBICLANswomen lack a single ACTIVE BRAIN CELL to make that assertion...and this bill should be KILLED" for lack of substance other than the "DREAMS" of the untidy "whities" to rich to know what is moral or socially accepted only their own twisted SATANIC-worshipping of money in order to kill-off people who are NOT "WHITE" and as untidy as they are and killing-off the elderly, physically disabled, mentally disabled, people who "they" considered different in their life styles, they have a deep hatred of females, of any age, since they are more than just superior in their thinking, but they have active brain cells!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!! Which the untidy "white" rePUBIClanswomen definitely do not since they also lack a single ACTIVE BRAIN CELL along with their male counterparts. So continuing with the passage of ANY of these bills is a STATEMENT that the 1%ers only want DICK-TATORS, not DEMOCRACY!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Barbara Goetz
Self Retired teacher
Dallas, TX

The restriction of reading material should not be within the jurisdiction of government, state or federal. Freedom of choice lies in the hands of parental guidance for minors and should remain their choice and not dictated by unrelated persons.

Dawn Lawrence
Self
Austin, TX

I am writing to submit comments AGAINST NH 3225. I do not believe we should be deciding what books and resources are available to Consider how HB3225 will impact access to book and resources are available to children, teens and families in our community.
I also believe that HB3225 limits my rights as a parent, since there is no opt-in, opt-out requirement for me to decide what books and sections of the public library my minor child may access.
I have personally benefited from unrestricted access to "adult" sections of the public library that has helped me to grow, develop and learn growing up and I've seen my children benefit from this same access as they learn about life, contemplate challenging moral question and learn the truth about our history and how others can be different than them but still warrant respect.
I do not agree with the government interfering with my rights as a parent to decide what books and most appropriate for my family.

William Chandler
self
Abilene, TX

Leave these decisions to the teachers and librarians, the banking of books hurts the education of our children while denying them the right to decide for themselves how to explore the world of books. The exemption of religious reading is absurd, and shows clear favoritism over secular learning.

Laura Fisk, Mrs

Self / illustrator

Austin, TX

My name is Laura Fisk, and I am an illustrator of books. I strongly oppose HB3225 that will be heard by the State Affairs Committee on Monday.

For years we have seen books striped from shelves in classrooms and school libraries. Books that are CRITICAL for children to learn about themselves and understand the world around them.

Now, the books in public libraries are under attack with this bill. As the bill is written, there is not even an option for parents to opt out of the restricted access for their own children.

Parents- not the government- should determine what books are and are not appropriate for their own children to read. Please protect Texas parent's rights, and vote "no" on HB3225. As a parent, I am raising my children to understand and not fear the world and do not appreciate the government trying, badly, to parent my child.

Gaby Benitez

self

Austin, TX

AGAINST! This bill is incredibly vague and clearly discriminatory. Let kids have the freedom to read.

Patricia Cummings

Self

Lorena, TX

I support this bill.

Elizabeth Schroller

Self; author

BELLAIRE, TX

I oppose HB 3225 because it is my understanding that this bill does not allow for parental opt-in or opt-out, and that takes away parental rights.

Colleen Thompson, Mrs.

Self.B.

The Woodlands, TX

As a longtime public school teacher and current novelist of romantic fiction, I understand the instinct to protect children from subject matter that may exceed their maturity level. But it's also important to acknowledge that children mature at different rates, that they have different needs, and often benefit from exposure to literature that opens their minds with the depiction of characters of different backgrounds or those who face different challenges. A parent, teacher, or librarian should help guide them toward appropriate choices—not a legislature reacting to books they will never read based based on fears whipped up about prejudices having to do with a tiny minority of books. If a parent has read a particular book and feels that it should be challenged at their child's school, there are policies in place allowing them to do so.

Barbra Franklin
Self, Reference Associate
McKinney, TX

I am urgently requesting that the members of House State Affairs Committee vote NO on HB3225. According to Texas Library Association's Intellectual Freedom Glossary, parent's rights include THEIR OWN child, not anyone else's child: "Parental rights – Any parent has the right to request that any library prevent access by the children OF THEIR OWN FAMILY to specific resources or types of resources. No parent has the right to affect the access of any other children than their own to any library resources." Taken from the Youth Library Card Application for Austin Public Library in Travis County, PARENTS are responsible for their child's checkouts and are required to sign and attest that: "I am the parent or legal guardian of the applicant and I assume responsibility for all materials checked out on and all charges incurred by the use of this card." Therefore, it is totally inappropriate to restrict the freedom of every other youth patron to certain books or areas. Libraries are the foundation of intellectual freedom-what questions do you have, how to access information, how to determine what information is accurate or relevant to the patron and even to say, this is too much information. Even if the information is something that someone else may consider offensive, obscene, explicit (all words in censorship bills to ban books), it is up to the patron or the patron's parent if they are under 18 years of age to make that determination. To remove or relocate materials is censorship and against the First Amendment of the United States. These are PUBLIC libraries, represented and collected for the community in which they are located. This bill is very dangerous as it affects all of Texas and all of its PUBLIC libraries. PUBLIC libraries are for everyone. They have professionals who know how to select materials and where to place them. Let them do their jobs. Then to have a penalty included, it is ridiculous. If anyone should be fined, it should be the parent of the youth card holder who maintains responsibility for what their child checks out. People are seeking information that is valid, accurate and pertinent to them and should include diverse answers. That needs to be available at PUBLIC libraries without restrictions beyond what the professional library staff deem appropriate. If you want a non-sexual library, please start your own with private funds. One last point, the exclusion of "religious materials" in the bill should be concerning, Sec. 310.002 (d). If I am reading that correctly, a sexually explicit text, picture or description is okay if it falls under religious materials? Will that apply to "non-Christian" materials? And why is it alright to talk about sexually explicit things that are religious, but not in PUBLIC spaces? These are questions I have for you to consider. In the mean time, please VOTE NO on HB3225.

Carrie Silver
Self
Cibolo, TX

Parents and not the government should choose what a child reads. As the bill is written, there is no opt out for a parent to make a choice. We are essentially taking away choice from a parent, power from parent, and literacy from children in this state. Please vote NO on this bill.

Randie Loar
Self / Branch Manager of a Public Library
Kilgore, TX

Each and every citizen of the United States of America has been granted certain privileges and rights. It is what makes our nation great. If you look back in history you will see that trying to take the right to knowledge has led to dissension amongst its population and dire consequences for the leadership trying to assert this level of control. Sexually Explicit is a term that is very subjective and not easily defined. I have no doubt that everyone in this room would have different interpretations. Children have parents to decide the level of information that is appropriate for them to have. The people of our nation are not stamped from a cookie cutter. We do not share the exact same opinions and points of view. How can you propose to decide for everyone what they should or should not be reading? Aren't Public Libraries the true representation of what it means to live in America! To be able to go into a Library no matter your race, religion, political affiliation, or economic level and read material that can feed your soul, help you gain insight, offer other points of view, or even repulse you are and should always remain the ideals that make our people and our nation great. The Right to Read is a freedom that if removed is a big step on the slippery slope of censorship and governmental control. What may seem harmless at the beginning if looked back upon can be the very first step to the beginning of the downfall of a great nation. We are in the middle of taking these steps now and should proceed with a great deal of caution because I am sure no one in Germany who supported the rise of Adolph Hitler could have imagined what the end result of that decision would be.

Carlson Sharpless
Self (IT Specialist)
Dallas, TX

As a regular library user, I am in strong opposition to this bill. Libraries are an important community resource for teens and young adults, but this bill will put libraries' teen and YA collections at risk by opening them up to accusations of "sexual content".

The penal code statue this bill depends on does not adequately define "sexually contact", which can mean anything from full intercourse to a romantic kiss. Without a clear definition, libraries will either have to severely overestimate (which will gut their teen/YA collection, as many teen/YA-targeted books, explicit or not, address subjects surrounding romance and intimacy) or set themselves up for bad-faith challenges from "concerned parents" that treat hand-holding coupled with intimate feelings as equivalent to sex.

The enforcement procedures listed in this bill will not be used to protect children from explicit material. Rather, they will be used by as a way to subject library systems to legal harassment for having teen and YA books that are targeted at teenagers and young adults. This will be a waste of the library's legal funds, a waste of the courts' time, and a blatant First Amendment violation.

More importantly, it will also eliminate a useful community resource for teens and young adults. Teen/YA books are an important way of helping these people understand their feelings, develop relationships, and connect with others their age. If this bill is passed, they will likely no longer be able to serve that function.

Claire Jones
self - Mother of 2
Austin, TX

This bill is nonsense. It's yet another overreaching attempt by Republicans to develop a "nanny state" where access to information is restricted for all citizens, and where they attempt to force their own will on everyone. It is up to PARENTS and not lawmakers to ensure that children access materials that the parents deem acceptable.

This bill's text itself makes no sense. I quote HB 3225's Sec. 310.001. DEFINITIONS.: "(5) "Sexually explicit material" means any communication, language, or material, including a written description, illustration, photographic image, video image, or audio file, that describes, depicts, or portrays sexual conduct, as defined by Section 43.25, Penal Code."

The section of Texas Penal Code that they reference, PENAL § 43.25 is "Sexual Performance by a Child"... LIBRARIES ALREADY DO NOT CONTAIN MATERIALS OF THIS NATURE!! So what is this bill trying to accomplish?

Republicans are attempting to broaden their power to deem factual, health-related books and materials like encyclopedias, dictionaries, and biology textbooks as harmful. They are encroaching on everyone's right to access information, and attempting to punish libraries and librarians as part of their overall strategy to erase factual information and the full range of human sexuality (such as LGBTQIA++ populations) from history. Republicans assume that this bill will pass without resistance so that they can try to ban books such as children's books about gay parents or "alternative lifestyles" from libraries.

Libraries are free and will remain bastions of free speech, freedom of information, and freedom of thought, no matter what Republicans try to do. This bill is total nonsense, and it's a shame and a waste of time for our lawmakers to debate this, when children in our own state need food, clean water, and housing. Please pass a funding bill for THAT, for children that are ACTUALLY suffering, not this bullshit.

Karlie Garcia
Self
San Antonio, TX

Insane! How is this not censorship????

Shane Axcell, Mrs.

self, author

Houston, TX

I am writing in opposition to this bill. As an author and a mother to a teenager, I do not want the state deciding what my child should be able to check out at the library or even what books are in the public library. Parents can make decisions about their child's reading choices. The state should stay out of it. Give Texans the right to read.

Amy Dennis

Self/Texas Public Children's Librarian/Children's Literature Reviewer

San Angelo, TX

Thank you for your consideration.

HB 3225 will negatively affect Texas libraries and debauch a profession that seeks to support Texans and their families in one of the only free remaining educational institutions left for the people. As a mother, public children's librarian, and professional reviewer of children's literature, I can assure you that I don't collect, promote, or offer access of sexually-explicit materials for or to minors. I do have the following concerns about HB 3225 as written:

The bill's requirement to remove offending materials to a separate "adults-only" area of the library will remove children's access to smaller libraries that have no physical space to differentiate the collection; they will be forced to separate the family-education experience and create adult-only libraries where children will be denied entry.

HB 3225 stigmatizes the very curiosity of the child and the autonomy of the family to decide what their child can read. This bill targets important materials about developing bodies and minds that Texas families depend on. Texans know they can get books about breastfeeding, potty training, and puberty (including sexual development) that are accurate and age-appropriate in the children's department of their local public libraries.

The bill will unnecessarily increase the existing statewide budget strain for libraries, TSLAC, TLA, and other library-related agencies.

I am sad to see the library and its servants become a scapegoat in the illusory and self-inflicted "culture war" that seeks to rip Texas and the country further apart. As the target of several public death threats spurred on by the malicious portrayal of librarians as groomers and pedophiles, I personally beg you to stop participating in the slander of librarians and educators at the state level. This anti-library rhetoric is not based in reality and is mis-prioritized because of the nature of the threat--librarians do not engage in professional practices that undermine our very livelihoods and go against everything we stand for.

We appreciate all the support we have received from patrons all over the state and country as we fight these accusations and attempt to advocate for ourselves and the rights of our patrons to decide what their children read.

I ask you to reopen your hearts to the uniquely American institution of the Public Library today--continue to lend me your expertise when I need help with facilities and legal issues, and for God's sake, please keep your pocketbook open as I ask for fiscal support for these community-strengthening programs. Let us focus on infant and toddler workshops, summer reading initiatives, and community author visits. Let us use our expertise and brave hearts to continue to collect for the good of the community without an unnecessarily increased workload and undue government interference.

The library is not the enemy of Texan families--we are your biggest fans. Please come see us!

Amy Dennis

Patrick Craven

Myself

Mansfield, TX

Library access is for everyone

Parents should be responsible for kids reading

Carla Espana-Austin

Self

Edinburg, TX

Please vote no, the wording is too vague on what constitutes materials, parents are more than capable communicating with their own children about what is appropriate and what is not.

Debbie Wolgemuth, Ms

Self, Accounting

Waco, TX

SUPPORT

Shelby Harbour

Self-employed

Weatherford, TX

While wanting to protect children is important, this bill does not provide the way to go about it. Instead of protecting children, it will eliminate all the ways a library supports a community. You need to go back to the drawing board, be more specific about what exactly is "sexually explicit" because libraries are not distributing that kind of material. You are focusing your efforts in the wrong direction and in the wrong place.

Helena Taylor

Self

Tomball, TX

Parents need to start being a aren't and because a parent won't allow their child to read a certain book doesn't mean that parent should not allow others to read those certain books. Censorship is bad.

Dede Fox

self writer/educator

The Woodlands, TX

Parents - not the government - should determine what books are and are not appropriate for their own children to read. Vote no on HB 3225 and stop trampling my individual liberties.

Margo Yeager

self / retired

The Woodlands, TX

Vote NO. Parents can properly manage their children's reading materials. Keep the government out of our personal affairs. SMALL Government, not bureaucracies.

Terri Hall, Co-Founder

We the People - Liberty in Action

Kerrville, TX

We wholeheartedly support this bill to move obscene materials from the children's section of our public libraries. This is just as offensive as furnishing this material to minors within the walls of our public school libraries. Library accessible is still library accessible regardless of whether its at a school campus or other public library, and obscenity and pornography shouldn't be anywhere near children! Pass this bill immediately!

Nathaniel Pancost

self, assistant professor

Austin, TX

I don't want these kinds of restrictions in public libraries. The whole point of public libraries is to allow anyone to read whatever they want. I don't think the state has any right to tell me what I can't read. Does that sound like freedom to you? What are we, communists?

Libraries are free and ought to stay that way. Wtf?!?!?

Phyllis Schneider

Self - small biz owner and great grandparent

Tyler, TX

"I strongly support HB 3225. Our public libraries should be safe environments for children, including teens – free from sexually explicit material. This bill provides clear standards and accountability, ensuring taxpayer dollars aren't funding inappropriate content for minor children. Please vote YES on HB 3225 and help make Texas libraries family friendly."

Travis Spiegelhauer

self

Pearland, TX

I am against this bill. It is too broad and difficult to manage in practice. This is undue burden on libraries. Teenagers should not be shielded from Brave New World, 1984, The Great Gatsby, and other important books that allow for critical thinking.

Christopher Tanguay

Self (Teacher)

Sugar Land, TX

While I believe that we can all agree in general that we should take care of and protect children. That said, this bill is disingenuous in that while it purports to protect children from sensually explicit material, it utterly fails to adequately define what constitutes "sexually explicit" material. Instead, it kicks the can down the road saying that the term will be defined at a later date after the bill has been put into law. This is troublesome because failing to clearly define what is "sexually explicit" before the bill passes. What one person considers "explicit" may not be in line with others' definition. I personally do not consider things such as depictions of kissing, gay people, or trans people to be explicit, but others might. The lack of an already clearly defined definition thus leads me to wonder if this is not just a back door towards censorship and a further move by conservative politicians and other forces to further marginalize people who too often have their voices and even their existence elided from public life. Additionally, the bizarre carve out for religious texts seems to give further credence to the idea that this bill is about pushing a religious and conservative viewpoint on to the public at large. If the author of the bill was truly concerned about children accessing explicit material, then there would be no exemption for religious texts as the Christian Bible and other religious texts are rife with examples of sexual violence, incest, and other things of that nature.

Not all of us want to see our public libraries required to gatekeep literature and to prohibit children from access to knowledge just because books for adults exist and because a few politicians are mortally afraid that a child might read the word "penis" or encounter a depiction of a non-heterosexual person. As a father, I don't want someone limiting my children's ability to explore and learn in a library. As a teacher, I don't want my students to be denied the opportunity to expand their horizons. That way lies a more ignorant and closed-minded population and impoverishes us all.

In sum, I think that this bill should be trashed because its stated purpose belies its actual aims of preventing access to the good of public libraries and instead of protecting children, it will harm them by denying them access to many materials (e.g. a good amount of the Western literary canon) that could easily be caught up in a narrow-minded view of what constitutes "sexually explicit".

Jeannette Ho, Ms.

self

Bryan, TX

I would like to express my opposition to this bill. Parts a) and b) are vague, in that they prohibit "sexually explicit" materials in areas of a public library that minors (anyone under 18) "MAY" access (Other parts address "minor sections" but these two do not). This could be interpreted to include adult sections of the library that such minors, including teenagers, may access to. Some states with similar laws have banned teenagers from adult sections so they can only access children's or young adult sections, to prevent them from access such materials. This would have the detrimental effect of inhibiting their intellectual growth, as many are ready for and need to read materials at a level more appropriate to their cognitive abilities, which they may not have access to at home or at their school libraries. Similar laws in other states have also resulted in minors being barred from libraries altogether, especially in small libraries that do not have the space to separate "minor" from adult sections. This bill is poorly thought out and could result in negative consequences that don't appear to have been considered, and that would result in the loss of library services to kids. Other parts of this bill state that a library is required to respond to complaints of a "member of the public." As you must know, many complaints originate from outsiders or political interest groups, who often do NOT represent the community that a public library serves. The "public" in this case is too broadly defined, and someone from outside the municipality of a library should not be able to start a complaint process which may lead to the withdrawal of a book from a community that they do not represent (i.e., reside in). In other words, if it is going to be mandatory for libraries to respond to complaints, those complaints should be actual users of that particular library and pay actual taxes to fund that library. Otherwise, any outside group can set off the process and they may not represent the interests of that particular library's community.

Michael Conti

Self, Library Worker

Austin, TX

I am imploring you to reject HB 3225.

There are so many problems the House could be addressing to protect minors in Texas. Poverty, lack of medical access, a broken foster care system, youth homelessness, underfunded schools, and epidemics of violence are all causes of immense harm to children in our state. Instead, this bill villainizes the public library, perhaps the single most trusted government institution in the United States.

Let's be clear: libraries do not force minors to read anything. They leave that responsibility to parents. And, every day, families check out whatever it is that suits them, whether it suits me or you or the State or anyone else or not. Families have the right to read all kinds of stories about all kinds of characters and all kinds of people.

As a teen, my parents took me to the public library and encouraged me to make full use of the adult section, because my education was important to them and there was simply no way I could achieve academically without those resources. I am sickened by what a bill like this would have meant to my intellectual development. I am disgusted knowing that the stories that will be targeted are exactly the ones that I, as a straight white kid from a pretty isolated place, had the most to learn from. I am numb imagining a world where libraries are labyrinths of restriction instead of wonders of access.

Reject HB 3225.

Monica Brown

True Texas Project and Hood county Republicans

Granbury, TX

I strongly support HB 3225. Our public libraries should be safe environments for children, including teens – free from sexually explicit material. This bill provides clear standards and accountability, ensuring taxpayer dollars aren't funding inappropriate content for minor children. Please vote YES on HB 3225 and help make Texas libraries family friendly

Gretchen Pierce

self, stay-at-home mom

Austin, TX

I strongly oppose Texas HB3225. This bill is problematic because it attacks access to books in public libraries. HB3225 forbids municipal public libraries from allowing anyone under 18 to access “sexually explicit” materials without clearly defining “sexually explicit.”

I have two young children and one of our favorite places to go together is the library. We go for storytime and craft shows, but most often my daughter and I go and spend hours looking for books, coloring, and reading while we eat lunch. In many of the libraries we go to, I do not even understand how this bill would work in practice as the children’s area is either not separate or just tucked into a corner. Would we be allowed to enter the library and walk through the adult section in order to get to the children’s section? Would staff have to guard the adult library materials? The whole idea is absurd.

I am also concerned that this bill would restrict the books that can be made available in those children’s/teen/YA sections. No sex-ed books, no descriptions of “sexual contact” in YA novels meant for older teens. Art books would be at risk, as would innocent books like Eric Carle’s Draw Me a Star and Maurice Sendak’s In the Night Kitchen. As a parent, I should be the one to decide whether they can access those books, not the government.

Again, my children and I love our local library branches and do not want to see this extremely vital community institution threatened in any way. I strongly urge you to vote against HB3225 and to protect my First Amendment freedom to access information.

Monica Koenig

self, church musician

AUSTIN, TX

I would like to voice my opinion opposing HB 3225 concerning public libraries. This bill forbids public libraries from allowing anyone under 18 to access “sexually explicit” books, effectively restricting them to children’s/teen/YA sections and restricting the books that can be made available in those sections. Nobody wants young people exposed to inappropriate materials, but the professionalism of librarians and their professional standards already safeguard library users of all ages. Librarians are educated and qualified to develop library collections that are diverse and appropriate. I do not believe that the legislature should decide what my family can and cannot read.

This bill would potentially limit a young person’s ability to use the adult section of the library. Young people should be encouraged to expand their minds and not be limited to using only the children’s section of the library. When I was young, I loved the cookbooks available in the adult section of the library because those in the youth and children’s section were too basic. I had been cooking with my mom since I was small and needed more complicated recipes in the adult cookbooks to expand my cooking skills. My son is fourteen and in high school biology, and he recently found fascinating books relevant to his studies just by browsing the science books in the adult nonfiction section. As a parent, I had the freedom to allow or disallow my son from using the adult section. HB3225 also limits my rights as a parent, since there is no opt-in, opt-out requirement for me to decide what books and sections of the public library my minor child may access. Those books from the adult section took him far beyond basic textbook biology, excited his interest in science, and expanded his mind in a way that wouldn’t have happened if he were limited to the children’s section.

The category “sexually explicit” as broadly defined in this bill would prevent youth from accessing books about sex education and human sexual development. A young person needs to be educated about his or her own developing body and to consider the ideas of sexual morality that one encounters in a sex education book in the youth section of a library. Those are not sexually explicit ideas but are basic education about human development, and under this bill such books could be banned, removed from shelves, and restricted from our young people.

I believe strongly that it is a basic right in a democratic society to have free access to ideas and information. Our libraries are institutions that uplift our communities and benefit everyone, and we should be proud of them—not suppressing them. Thank you.

Carolyn Foote

Self

Austin, TX

As a parent, I feel this bill violates my parental rights. I am responsible for what books my teenager accesses or checks out from the public library. For my teenager to be treated like they are asking for criminal material if they want to read an adult classic or get an art book with paintings in it is offensive to me as a parent. When we saw people removing books from school libraries, the argument was that the student could always access the book at the public library. But now this bill is limiting my teen's access at the public library. There are many classic books that have some sort of sexual content and the way this is defined in this bill is very vague and confusing. Could my teen not read a book with an LGBTQ character who kisses? Could my teen not access a book that has a painting by Rubens? Could my teen not read a book like Catch-22, a war classic? Also, for many small rural public libraries who are just one big room, I'm not sure how this is supposed to work. I know the Westbank Library started out in one little room in a bank. In Idaho, this type of bill caused some small public libraries to have to close. This is a very concerning bill and it violates my rights as a parent to decide for my own teen. Please leave my public library alone.

Elisabeth Oakes Roach

Self, Human Resources Professional

Ben Wheeler, TX

I strongly support HB 3225. Our public libraries should be safe environments for children, including teens – free from sexually explicit material. This bill provides clear standards and accountability, ensuring taxpayer dollars aren't funding inappropriate content for minor children. Please vote YES on HB 3225 and help make Texas libraries family friendly.

Jennifer Mobbs

Self

Tyler, TX

I support HB 3225 and I am asking you to do the same. For far too long our public libraries have NOT been safe for children and teens because of sexually explicit materials in the areas that minors get their reading materials. This Bill addresses this by clear standards and ACCOUNTABILITY so our tax dollars do not fund these sexually explicit books, etc. I am asking, urging you to vote YES for HB 3225. Our public libraries need to be safe for our children and family friendly again. Thank You.

Terry Kosobud

Grandparents for Public Schools

Austin, TX

I oppose HB 3225. With so much sexually explicit materials available on the internet, it seems peculiar to believe that young people will go to the library when they can simply stay at home and go online instead. HB3225 appears to be creating a problem where there isn't one.

Besides, libraries have comprehensive policies to systematically review the appropriateness of books. Librarians are well trained professionals who ensure people checking out books receive age-appropriate materials. Parents are always allowed to restrict books they feel are inappropriate for their children. That's parental choice. Shutting down the library is against parental choice. Studies have shown that today's young people are more mature than previous generations. So, what has changed that young people suddenly need protection from a boogie man. Highly acclaimed books help people learn about the world and themselves. Sensitive people can always opt out and simply not read materials they are not comfortable with.

Amanda Kennair

Self

Sugar Land, TX

I oppose HB 3225, as this bill strips away parental rights by blocking access to materials for all minors, regardless of parental consent. As a parent, I should have the right to decide what is appropriate for my child to read—not the state. This law removes that choice and imposes a one-size-fits-all restriction that overreaches its purpose. This bill is also inconsistent with the definitions outlined in HB 900 and could result in the banning of a wide range of literature that is neither harmful nor offensive—including educational, artistic, and historically significant works.

Public libraries are essential community institutions and participation is completely voluntary. They exist to promote access to diverse ideas and support lifelong learning for all, and this bill is attempting to fundamentally change what public libraries are meant to be. These policies don't protect children; they silence perspectives, limit access to literature, and interfere with the right of parents to guide their own children's reading choices.

Carrye Syma

Self

Lubbock, TX

I am against this bill. This bill would limit minors access to books taught in high school English classes such as *The Great Gatsby* and limit parents ability to decide what is appropriate for their children. This bill would take away personal choice. It should be up to the student and their parent(s) what materials they access and read. I would not tell anyone else's child(ren) what to read or not to read and I do not want anyone imposing their beliefs on my children. This is censorship and book banning, but it is being masked as a protection when it is actually taking away rights.

Hank Stevens

Self

Fredericksburg, TX

Strongly support HB3225 No children should be exposed to porn in school or libraries or anywhere

Melanie Gibson, Ms.

Self, school librarian

Dallas, TX

I urge you to vote against HB 3225. This bill would infringe on the rights of minors in public libraries. They would not be allowed to enter the library's public sections to protect them from "sexually explicit" materials, but "sexually explicit" is not defined. This would also restrict teens from entering the general public section to do research for class. It would restrict the books available in the children's and teens' sections—including sexual education books, any books that include "sexual contact" (again, not defined). This would infringe on the First Amendment rights of older teens. Art books could fall into these restricted categories. This would also place an undue burden on small and rural libraries. They may not have the space or staff to have separate rooms for children and teens; they might have to forbid entry to everyone under 18. I support the First Amendment for all people, and this bill infringes on my rights and all members of my community. Please vote against it.

Kristin Galle
self and minister
Denton, TX

I am writing to strongly oppose HB 3225 which is scheduled to be presented before the State Affairs committee 04/14/2025. I find this bill extremely problematic because it restricts access to books in public libraries. HB 32265 forbids municipal public library from allowing anyone under 18 to access "sexually explicit" materials without defining this term. To comply with this vague legislation, libraries would have to restrict anyone under 18 to children's/teen/YA sections--they would be forbidden to enter sections for adult general public where they might encounter "sexually explicit" books. Also, it would restrict books made available in the children's/teen/YA sections where they might encounter "sexually explicit" books. This would have the affect of restricting certain art, romance, or even educational material as this term is not defined in any way. Additionally, small libraries that don't have space for defined rooms or separate areas for children/teens/YA and adult books, couldn't properly serve the needs of all community members under this bill. I STRONGLY ENCOURAGE TO VOTE AGAINST HE 3225 and to protect my first amendment freedom to access information.

Susan Peloquin
self
New Braunfels, TX
HB 3225

I am in FULL support of HB 3225, A bill to be entitled an act relating to the prohibition of access by minors to sexually explicit materials in municipal public library collections; providing a civil penalty.

My background in education covers many years as a substitute teacher in Austin public and private schools, spanning over 30 years. I am also a concerned citizen who cares about our children and what they are exposed to, which is grooming and pornographic in nature. This is not what public libraries should be about but they ARE doing this, which I have documented. Let me give you two examples: in 2023 and 2024. a group of us went before the New Braunfels City Council to protest the filth that was being allowed to be checked out by youths at our local New Braunfels City Library. I went through the process of protesting two books, which I read in full and did research reports on. Both Hello Cruel World: 101 Alternatives to Suicide for Teens, Freaks, and Other Outlaws Bornstein, Kate and The Awesome Autistic Guide for Trans Teens, Yenn Purkis & Sam Rose had many examples of specific grooming for gender transition (both surgical and medical) , gay, sexually active for both suicidal and autistic teens or children! .

From The Awesome Autistic Guide....

p 20

But in reality, being trans and gender divergent can be a great thing.

p 24

There are many spaces that can help connect you up to other people who are autistic and trans. There may be a Pride group at your school or in your local community. If there isn't something available in your area now, there might be one on its way, or perhaps you could even start one of your own!

From Hello Cruel World....

p 175

You are chock full of yummy sexual energy, and you can share it safely, sanely, respectfully, and consensually whenever and with whomever you like. I draw the line at sex between children and adults. I don't see that one working at all.

These authors and many others are in our own New Braunfels Library, sanction by our librarians and our advisory council!

Most parents do not know about these books but would not want their children reading explicit, pornographic materials. Public libraries have gone woke and they are helped by the American Library Association and other groups, with encouragement to place these harming, pornographic books on the shelves.

I appreciate that this bills gives clear legal descriptions of "sexually explicit material" and gives civil liabilities to enforce it. If libraries are hit at the pocket book, they will rethink their placement of these books in the youth section.

Please do the right thing and vote FOR HB3225, our children need protecting!

Sincerely,
Susan Peloquin
New Braunfels, TX

Sean Bechtelheimer

Self

Dallas, TX

This is incredibly silly and I am embarrassed something like this would even be proposed. Parents can decide what is appropriate for their own children and government needs to stay out of this manner let alone trying to make it some kind of legal issues for non compliance.

Erika Slaymaker

self

Austin, TX

Public libraries are such an important community resource and space that all Texans should have access to. I'm deeply concerned that this bill would restrict access and keep young people from being able to access their libraries. The local public library was a hugely important space for me as a teenager--I loved doing research, checking out cookbooks, and reading novels. This bill would keep young people from being able to fully use their local libraries. Young people should not be restricted to certain parts of the library.

Amanda Gentry

Self/concerned citizen

Houston, TX

This bill is completely unnecessary, as public libraries don't have obscene materials in their collections. Furthermore, it would force libraries to not allow teens under 18 to access the general adult collection, which would severely hinder many teens' ability to complete school work and prepare for higher education and careers. Also, this bill directly interferes with a parent's right to determine what materials their children have access to. Isn't it a fundamental right in the state of Texas that PARENTS have the ultimate say in the content of their children's education? There is no parental "opt in/out" provision in this bill.

Annette Bennett, Ms

self retired

Fredericksburg, TX

strongly support HB 3225. Our public libraries should be safe environments for children, including teens – free from sexually explicit material. This bill provides clear standards and accountability, ensuring taxpayer dollars aren't funding inappropriate content for minor children. Please vote YES on HB 3225 and help make Texas libraries family friendly.”

Karla Alvarado

Self

Kyle, TX

Good evening I'm writing to you this evening asking you to push through HB3225 in order to protect our children from sexually explicit material in public libraries. This bill is a huge step in the right direction ensuring adult, graphic, and pornographic material is not on library shelves in the children's and youth section. Thank you!!!

Karen Pritchett

Self

Bryan, TX

I strongly support bill HB 3225. Children do not and should not be exposed to pornography in any way shape or form and any person or corporation no matter how small or how big should be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.

Thank you,

Karen Pritchett

Beverly Dow
Grandparent
Tyler, TX

There are porn stores for this type of content. A public library is no place for this type of material. A library should be for expanding a person's horizon not perverting their mind with explicit garbage. If the individual chooses to consume this material there are other sources to acquire if they choose. Stop wandering children's' eyes. Have them expand their horizons in wholesome adventures.

William Fitch
Retired
Kerrville, TX

We need this bill... I strongly support it's passage to protect our impressionable children.

Denise Cullens
Self
Axtell, TX

SUPPORT SUPPORT

Mary Ellen Scribner, Ms.
Self - retired secondary school librarian and English teacher
Austin, TX

Please vote "no" on HB 3225, a vaguely worded bill written and supported by people who think they have some kind of special status or divinely granted power giving them the right to determine what other people's children can borrow from a public or any other library. They believe they are judges of what sexually explicit material, including written language and illustrations, is. They also loudly claim that parents should have "choice" in all aspects of rearing and educating their children, so if parents don't want their children aged eighteen and under entering public libraries and checking out sexually explicit material (which isn't there by any reasonable criteria in the first place), they always have the power and privilege to forbid it. They, however, do not have that power over my children and grandchildren—or yours for that matter. At the ripe age of 83, I cannot recall a time when I was not a regular library user of whichever was available, public or school. My parents never told me that I couldn't read something though they sometimes suggested we discuss the material together. I did the same with mine. As a degreed, certified librarian I am totally aware of the rigid criteria followed and thoughtful care given to the selection of the books and other materials which are made available in publicly supported libraries and education institutions. Again, please vote no on HB 3225.

Ann David, Dr.
Self, professor
San Antonio, TX

HB 3225 is poorly written and unclear in multiple ways.

The restrictions the current legislation would enact do not allow me, as a parent of children of different ages, to opt in or out of the restrictions. As a parent, I retain the right to decide what materials my children should access, not legislators in Austin or even the local librarian. The library is designed to be a collection of resources that individuals can navigate as they want, which includes parents with their children. This bill restricts my right to do that.

Additionally, this bill makes no distinction between elementary school students or teens. I know the readings for AP English courses and dual credit English courses almost exclusively are shelved in the 'adult' section of the library. My teens have checked out books for their courses that are shelved in the adult section and this would restrict their ability to use this resource. This limited framing seems to miss the reality of how teens use the library to succeed in school.

Finally, my local library branch is one big room. There is no way to wall off the adult section from any of the other age levels. Given this law, my children wouldn't even be able to go to my local library branch. What if they want to study with friends or check out books? My tax dollars pay for the library--and I'm happy to pay for it--but this law would restrict it in ways that are unfair.

As a Texan I do not support this law.

Char Doonan
Self
Winnsboro, TX

I strongly support HB 3225. Our public libraries should be safe environments for children, including teens – free from sexually explicit material. This bill provides clear standards and accountability, ensuring taxpayer dollars aren't funding inappropriate content for minor children. Please vote YES on HB 3225 and help make Texas libraries family friendly

Jeff McClarty
Fredericksburg
Fredericksburg, TX

I support this bill. God does not approve of sex explicit books for any of us especially children. God is watching friend. Vote yes

Patricia Cummings
Self
Lorena, TX

I support this bill.

Jamie Bechtelheimer

Self

Dallas, TX

As a parent and a Texan, I am firmly AGAINST HB 3225. Censoring books and restricting families' freedom to choose what to read is un-American. It insults American families' intelligence. It is a shameful act of anti-intellectualism. In the midst of a nation-wide literacy crisis, this ban would hinder people's ability to learn to read and build literacy skills. Please, do the right thing here. Allow parents and children to make their own informed decisions about what they'd like to read together. We don't want or need strangers to police our choices of what to read.

Libraries are an essential public resource for families. Since his birth, I have relied on my public libraries to educate my child and I am baffled and angered by those who are trying to steal families' freedom to read. I am demanding free, uncensored library access for my family, my community, and my state. I want to live in an educated society, and libraries are absolutely necessary to achieve that. Please remember that those who have banned books, or worked to make them inaccessible to the public, have NEVER been on the right side of history.

Please, I urge you to vote AGAINST HB 3225.

Mary Quinn, Mrs

self / retired pharmacist

Brady, TX

I strongly support HB3225. I am angry and frustrated at the porn allowed in our schools and our public libraries in Texas. And on top of that, we can't sue you idiots in the legislature for allowing this outrage. You have covered your asses so an ordinary mom or grandmother can't sue you. You don't want your children and grandchildren reading this filth but you allow other precious minds to be destroyed by it. please pass this legislation.

Charlene Reagan

Self & Grass Roots WTP

Spicewood, TX

Removes sexually explicit content from areas accessible to minors

Requires age verification to check out such material (including digital formats)

Enforces compliance with fines up to \$10,000 per violation

Cuts taxpayer funding for noncompliant libraries for an entire year

Empowers the Attorney General to prosecute violations

Please protect Texas children from porn in our public libraries. Vote for HB 3225 to define “sexually explicit material” using Penal Code Section 43.25 and ensures no child stumbles upon the kind of harmful content we are repeatedly finding in the children’s sections of public libraries.

Melody Boren, Ms

Self/Public Librarian

AMARILLO, TX

HB 3225 is an unnecessary bill that will waste valuable time and effort of Texas legislators. Members need to know that public library staff do not act in loco parentis, assuming responsibility for minor children as school library staff must do in their work. Public libraries require that children must be accompanied by an adult when visiting the library. Parents and guardians are expected to be aware of the books that their children are reading, and staff welcome questions about reading levels and interesting stories to foster a love of reading that will last a lifetime. HB 3225 takes away the rights of the parents to determine what their children can access, without an option for them to choose. Parents do not want this bill.

Professional librarians are highly trained professionals who make collection decisions everyday to make sure our communities have access to materials that suit all ages, interests, and abilities. Restricting access to books that may not suit one person is restricting access to all. It is not in the best interest of our state to limit parental choice at libraries, when Texas is already very low in educational and literacy rates when compared to other states. I hope that the esteemed committee will listen to citizens and make the right choice for all Texans.

Sincerely,

Melody Boren

Sylvia Coulson
self- Dietitian
Richardson, TX

I fully support this bill. There is no place for pornography in school libraries.

Jacob Schrum
Self/Professor
Georgetown, TX

I'm opposed to this bill in general, but I feel that even those who support this bill don't understand the negative consequences that will result from it. Given such a vague and broad definition of sexual material, libraries will be forced to restrict access to many books beyond those that the writers of this bill are presumably targeting. Sexuality is a normal part of life, and age appropriate books on sexual education should be accessible, and teens need to be able to access works of literature that might contain a scene that crosses this vague boundary. Furthermore, it seems like the only way to enforce such a law would be to completely restrict kids and teens from wandering the general adult section of the library, which is completely unreasonable. I don't think this bill should be passed at all, but if you want such a bill, then at least define terms well enough that only some small portion of what you deem problematic books would be moved to a special section. Don't restrict access to books with clear educational and/or artistic merit, or create policies that even inadvertently restrict access to books with no sexual content, which is what will happen if kids can't browse adult books. One last bit of hypocrisy to address: if you insist on banning access to sexually explicit material, then there should be no exceptions for the Bible or other religious material. The sexual acts that are not merely discussed, but sometimes condoned in the Bible, are more offensive than most of the material that would be restricted by this bill.

Taylor Christian
Citizen
New Braunfels, TX

At the New Braunfels Public Library, where librarians approved Let's Talk About It, a graphic health book subtitled "The Teen's Guide to Sex, Relationships, and Being a Human," for public access. Written by Ericka Moen and Matthew Nolan, the authors say this book is "for whoever needs it, whatever your age." And librarians determined it was "educational" enough to shelve for young adults—later moving it to the general nonfiction section, accessible to all ages, including children.

This book teaches minors:

- "A HAPPY vulva or penis is a WET vulva or penis." (p. 116)
- "When consumed right, porn can help you discover new aspects of your sexuality... Go to the sites they [porn stars] recommend and pay for your porn." (p. 164)
- "There is nothing wrong with enjoying some porn; it's a fun sugary treat." (p. 165)

This is what is available to children in a taxpayer-funded public library.

It doesn't stop there. The New Braunfels library also allows minors to check out books by Colleen Hoover—a self-declared writer of "smutty romance." She has even said books like Verity, Too Late, and Ugly Love are not appropriate for teens. Yet minors can access them without restriction.

This is not about censorship. It's about common sense, accountability, and protecting children.

I wholeheartedly support HB 3225 because it addresses this issue responsibly. This bill does not ban books or restrict adults' freedom to access them. It simply establishes necessary safeguards, clarifying where explicit materials should be shelved and ensuring minors' access is managed appropriately.

HB 3225 empowers parents, promotes transparency, and reinforces the vital role of local libraries as safe, family-friendly spaces. It includes a non-criminal enforcement mechanism—civil penalties and the potential loss of state funding for non-compliance—so that taxpayer dollars are not used to subsidize the availability of sexually explicit material to minors.

As a parent, and a community member, I cannot stay silent while children are exposed to this kind of content. We are not talking about a few "controversial" books. We are talking about graphic depictions of sexual activity and advice on how to access porn—all available to children in our public libraries.

HB 3225 is a thoughtful, balanced, and urgently needed measure. It reflects the values of Texas families and ensures that our children can continue to learn and grow in age-appropriate and safe environments. It is scientifically proven explicit material is extremely harmful to a developing brain. Please protect our children! Thank you!

Hugh Burke

Self

Temple, TX

Public Comment Opposing HB 3225

As a lifelong Texan and former child of a public servant, I respectfully submit this comment in opposition to HB 3225, which seeks to restrict minors' access to materials deemed "sexually explicit" in public libraries. While protecting children is a shared goal, this bill threatens intellectual freedom, burdens library operations, and risks censorship.

I grew up in Midland, where my mom worked as Director of Community Services for the city. Her office was across from the Midland County Public Library, and my brother and I spent countless afternoons there. It was a place of wonder—full of books that encouraged curiosity, critical thinking, and exploration. That access shaped me deeply, leading to a 16-year career in Texas public education and a lifelong love of reading and writing—one I now share with my wife and three children.

HB 3225 defines “sexually explicit material” using broad language from the Penal Code. This could unintentionally restrict access to classic literature, health education, and culturally significant works—materials that are not harmful, but vital to learning. The bill’s vague criteria create the risk of overreach and subjectivity.

It also imposes significant operational burdens on public libraries, requiring annual collection reviews and rapid responses to public complaints—all under threat of losing funding or facing civil penalties. These requirements divert already-limited resources away from serving communities.

Moreover, the bill’s religious material exemption raises constitutional concerns, privileging certain viewpoints and undermining the library’s role as a neutral, inclusive space.

Libraries are not dangerous places—they are safe havens for growth and discovery. HB 3225, though well-intentioned, could undermine those spaces and restrict the freedom of young Texans to explore and learn. I urge legislators to reject this bill and work collaboratively with educators, librarians, and families to protect both children and their access to knowledge.

Respectfully,
Hugh P. Burke
Temple, Texas

David Turner
Self
Crowell, TX

This is a ridiculously stupid attempt to deny first amendment rights, by taking adult supervision away from parents . This is hypocritical and inconsistent with the ideology behind “school choice.” But given the total lack of any logic or reason from the Republican Party it may be too much to expect ideological consistency

Judy Rothell
Concerned citizen
New Braunfels, TX

Writing you to please vote FOR HB3225

This bill is a very good plan to protect our children from accessing books in our public supported Libraries which books have been deemed PERVASIVELY VULGAR AND EDUCATIONAL UNSUITABLE.

Please take a few moments of your time and review 2 out of over 600 books that are now available to our children (1.) VERITY and (2.) Court of Silver Fame-author Sara Maas.

Bill 3225 will force the Libraries to remove the access explicit material. this bill return the rights of parents to control exposure to books that are sexually provocative with graphic illustrations.

Bill 3225 also preserves the access to religious material. Making sure that the law does not misapply the constitutional personal rights of access to Biblical material and texts.

This Bill 3225 also includes structure and penalties or non-compliance.

I spoke before our City Council of New Braunfels as a concerned citizen regarding the Texas Penal Code 42.24.3c the Texas Obscenity Exemption. They refuse to even give their attention with one getting up and walking out repeatedly. To emphasize the "Ultimate responsibility for the collection rests with the New Braunfels City Council." Information found in City of New Braunfels Public Library, section III A.

Thomas Mutranowski
Self
Plano, TX

I would like to recommend the House to STRONGLY SUPPORT this legislation. Our public libraries should be safe environments for children, including teens – free from sexually explicit material. This bill provides clear standards and accountability, ensuring taxpayer dollars aren't funding inappropriate content for minor children. Please vote YES on HB 3225 and help make Texas libraries family friendly. There is NEVER a righteous reason to expose children to porn. Thank you.

Nancy Stevens
Grassroots America
Fredericksburg, TX

I strongly support HB 3225 as all of our children should never be exposed to porn not public schools not public libraries. .

Anne Jackson
Self
Tyler, TX

I strongly support passage of this bill. Our public libraries need to be safe for children, including teenagers. Sexually explicit materials hurt children. This bill protects children and our community, and has much needed enforcement provisions. VOTE YES.

Dianne King
self
Austin, TX

Please do not restrict access to the library by children and teenagers. I began reading books for adults when I was very young. It was critical to my development as a reader, a student, and a professional writer to learn to read and complex books and ideas. Let parents restrict children as they see fit, not libraries.

Kathy Ponce
Self
Maypearl, TX

I support this bill 100%

Please protect Texas children

Kathryn Broussard
self, Quality
Stafford, TX

I am fundamentally opposed to censorship of any kind. It is not the public library's duty to censor what minors (or any person) can read just as it is not the state or federal government's duty to censor what minors (or any person) can read.

Rebecca Starr
Self
Dallas, TX

Libraries do not need to be censored. The library is the heart of my family. It's where we learn and grow and come together as a community. Minors need to be able to read and question and learn.

Kimberly Gilbertson
Self
Austin, TX

I am against HB3225. This bill will negatively impact access to books and resources for children, teens and families in my community. This bill limits a parent's right, since there is no opt-in, opt-out requirement for parents to decide what books and sections of the public library their minor child may access. This bill is blatant government interference with a parent's right to decide what books are/are not appropriate for their minor children and teens to read. Interesting to impose such government interference in a time when Republicans are screaming about said interference. The double standard is obnoxious.

Daniel Hunt, SREC SD3 Committeeman
Self
Athens, TX

I appreciate the ability to address this committee and speak in favor of HB 3225. There is never any legitimate excuse to display pornographic material to children. There is a difference between the outlines of naked children shown to victims of sexual assault and pornography. Why do we put Playboy Magazine behind the counter at 7-11 stores and require a certain age to purchase. Because we recognize that children don't need to be seeing pornography. It desensitizes and grooms them to be sexually active before they have the intellectual ability to make good decisions in those matters. Please, pass this bill from committee favorably.

Tom Olle, Self
Self
Jacksboro, TX

I strongly support this bill.

Don Roots, Mr.
Self
Whitehouse, TX

Please pass HB 3225. This bill is an important line of defense in protecting our most innocent. No child should be subjected both knowingly or unknowingly to sexually pervasive material. Pass this bill.

Jackie Jacobsen
Independent Voter, Parent, and Grandparent/semi retired
Wimberley, TX

I am in FAVOR of this bill. Our children need protection from all of the harmful content they are being exposed to. Children under 21 are not critical thinkers as to the profound damage that can be done to them. They are being exposed to materials that are not age appropriate. Please protect our most valuable treasures and help protect their innocence.

Catherine Roots, Mrs.
Self
Whitehouse, TX

I am respectfully asking that you pass HB 3225. Pornographic and sexually pervasive books DO NOT belong in the hands of children. They should not be in the children's section of ANY library. Childhood is fleeting, and our children have enough obstacles to navigate in today's world. Saying no to these books in the children's section helps protect their minds. This is NOT a ban, it is common sense that these books belong in the adult section only.

Holly Riedelbach
Self
Austin, TX

I oppose this bill because I trust and support the decisions of professional librarians to decide what materials should be in their library collections.

Jennine Peters
301 Longhorn Trail, Wimberley TX 78676
Wimberley, TX

I am in favor of this bill because children should be protected from harmful content.

Lisa Shine, Mrs
Self
Wimberley, TX

I am in favor of this bill bc children should be protected from inappropriate and harmful content in their schools.

Bianca Arvin
Self
Lago Vista, TX

OPPOSE HB 3225. This is a book ban hiding behind a child's safety mask as all these anti-LGBTQIA+ bills are. OPPOSE.

Larry Vigil
Self
Amarillo, TX

Far the bill

Miriam Fabrick

Self/student

Spring, TX

I do not support HB 3225. The definition of “sexually explicit” is very watered down and vague in this context and is used to reference materials that people may or may not agree with. Gay people existing is not sexually explicit, and it is up to the parent to decide what books are best for their children, not the state of Texas. The United States allows us to practice freedom of religion, and by making everyone else live under political Christian morals we are also not upholding the separation of church and state.

Karen Dalton

Self retired

Dallas, TX

Children do not need to be subject to sexual content. I am in favor of this bill.

Janet Ruffin, Dr

Self/Registered Nurse

San Marcos, TX

I am IN FAVOR of this HB because children should be protected from content that is harmful to them. Our children deserve to grow up in an environment that is safe and free from Sexually Explicit materials in Libraries. Please, Please Pass this Bill! Thank you.

Patricia Vigil

Self

Amarillo, TX

For the bill

Catherine Delaney

self R.N.

San Antonio, TX

I support this bill and urge you to do so also. Our children do not need to be confused by a lot of unnecessary information. A library used to be a safe haven for kids. Now it's an opportunity for indoctrination into woke culture, which benefits no one. Please support this bill.

Thank you,

Catherine Delaney

Christy Rohlf

Self

New Braunfels, TX

I am in favor of this bill as children do not need access to sexually explicit content.

Luis Cabrera
Self
Harlingen, TX

oday I will talk about why I believe this bill will be in the best interest of our elected officials who oversee municipal or public libraries.

Elected officials are not overjoyed about potentially exposing their cities or counties to lawsuits. When faced with furious voters who've seen obscene vulgar materials in the children's section of the library, elected officials have a decision to make:

- (1) Do they risk a lawsuit from our own library staff by firing them or making them move the books or
- (2) do they continue to allow explicit material in the minor's section and pretend it's not happening.

Llano County Library officials stood up for the best interest of children. And they are now in a lawsuit. Thank God for tough Texans that are willing to stand strong and do the right thing. Meanwhile the Llano ex-librarians are busy prancing around Texas giving speeches about how wonderful it all is.

In Tyler Texas, the city council and mayor ran for the hills when they were presented with clear evidence of 30 sexually explicit books in the Tyler Public Library. The city council and mayor fearfully kept their head in the sand and are still pretending it isn't happening. They are in the wrong.

Because elected officials want to avoid lawsuits I believe they will appreciate this bill. It keeps them out of expensive lawsuits, it gives clear direction and settles the problem once and for all. In fact, recently the City of Tyler preemptively stated publicly that if this law is passed, they will comply. That's great news. Let's get this done.

Let's let our elected officials off the hook and pass a sensible law that will put an end to this madness. For the good of all parties but primarily for the good our of children.
Please pass HB 3225 as is.

William Collier
uber
Amarillo, TX
For bill.

Jennie Gilchrist, President
Dallas Eagle Forum
Dallas, TX

I support protecting Texas children from lewd materials in libraries and schools.

MISTY VIGIL
uber
Amarillo, TX
Im for the bill.

Sharon Guthrie
Self
Tyler, TX

This bill is necessary for the protection of young minds. Pornographic reading materials have no place in the children's section of Texas public libraries. Please pass this bill.

Luke Frost
Self, Amazon Employee
San Marcos, TX

I am in favor of this bill. This kind of material shouldn't be provided to minors, especially without explicit consent from their parents. There is no benefit to our youth to have these books in our libraries, but there is damage to them that can be done by viewing these things.

Lorie Meynig
Self
Austin, TX

Please protect Texas Children from all forms of porn. Please get back to education. It's that simple.

Emma Douglas
self/mother
Fort Worth, TX
I support this bill!

Vaughn Beck
Self, Custom Software Strategy
Lufkin, TX

Pass this bill. State and municipal governments have no business providing minors access to this type of content. Or anyone else.

Penny Verkleir
Self
Denison, TX

Prohibiting sexually explicit materials to minors is another way of protecting children and guarding their innocence. We use ratings on other media to protect and guide parents in deciding what's appropriate for their children, we prohibit minors from consuming alcohol, drugs, or being in a casino, bar, adult entertainment venues... It's only reasonable to prohibit harmful materials in our libraries where children can access explicit materials without parental supervision.

Katherine Nemec
Self
Dallas, TX

Pass HB 3225 to remove sexually explicit books from public schools and public libraries. Children need to be protected from these books. Be their voice and protector! Keep them safe!

Leah Kilchrist
Self, stay at home mom
New Braunfels, TX

I am IN FAVOR because children should be protected from content that is harmful to them.

Korey Young
Self, music teacher
Austin, TX

Vote no! No book bans in MY Texas.

Grace Lundmark, Mrs
Self/concerned grandmother
Whitehouse, TX

PLEASE make it a state offense to include sexually explicit materials, books, etc (better known as pornography) in public schools! Why should responsible teachers try to educate & mold young minds for the future if those same young minds are exposed to the debilitating lure of pornography? Parents should be responsible for sexual education, not the public schools.

Susan Magana
self homemaker
Wimberley, TX

In favor of protecting our children from harmful content and predators.

Andy Myers
Self
Amarillo, TX

I am for this bill to protect child against explicit materials. Thank you

Debi Short, Mrs
myself--I am retired from office manager position
Austin, TX

Children's minds are so malleable. We must do all we can to protect them from content that could harm them in any way. Please vote for HB 3225 to help our children have a less dangerous world to live in. Thank you very much! Debi Short

Evan Pivalizza
Self
Flint, TX

Please keep minors safe but limiting access to explicit sexual material in municipal public libraries

Karen Lewis
Self
Tyler, TX
Support

Katie Nick
Self
Tyler, TX
Remove!

Marilyn Ackerson
Self
Flint, TX

Please pass to protect our youth!

Donald Jacobson

Self

Austin, TX

I request legislators to support this Bill in order to protect the innocent minds of children from adult intrusion into their innocent lives, just as we were protected from it when we were children in school.

Maria Ozuna

Self/ Credit Recovery Specialist

Amarillo, TX

My name is Maria Ozuna. I am representing myself and I am submitting public comment for HB3225.

Lynda Sutliff

Self....retired Family Nurse Practitioner

Tyler, TX

I don't want to ban books....I want rhise with explicit sexual content removed from the children's section of our libraries to the adult section.

Colette Sirhal

Self

Austin, TX

The legislature needs to pass this bill.As a mother of 5 and grandmother to 10, I am strongly in favor....we need to protect children!

Jana Teis

self

San Marcos, TX

I am IN FAVOR because children should be protected from content that is harmful to them. Please vote FOR

James Jones

Self

Wimberley, TX

I support this bill!

Cynthia Holliday

Precinct 2225 / self

Dallas, TX

In Favor of this bill!

Cindy Nick

Self

Tyler, TX

I'm in favor of HB 3225 to move explicit books from the kids section of public libraries to the adult section insuring our most impressionable children are not inadvertently exposed to content which is inappropriate for their developmental stage. Thank you!

Alexander Deanda

Conservatives of Texas est.2019 & Randall County Precinct 111 as Chair

Amarillo, TX

Thank you for your hard work on this matter. As a plaintiff Deanda vs Becerra 2:2020cv00092 - document 6(N.D. Te.2022) I am very vested in the protection of minors. God Bless your efforts..

Milinda Morris, Dr.

self, SD 13 SREC Committeewoman, Chairman, Secure The Electric Grid Subcommittee

Houston, TX

Chairman King, Vice-Chairman Hernandez, and State Affair Committee members, I fully support HB 3225 by Alders, et al. We must protect our innocent children from exposure to sexually explicit materials in municipal public library collections, which includes all children younger than 18 years of age. I agree with civil penalties for any municipal public library violating Sec. 310.002. Please pass HB 3225 by Alders et al. and consider even higher financial penalties a, such as \$20,000.00 for each violation, and shortening the days of correcting their violations to 14 days instead of 45 days. We must protect our children in Texas as quickly as possible when violations are noted and have penalties that act as strong deterrents to unethical standards.

Tara Beck

R Precinct Chair 444

Dripping Springs, TX

I am IN FAVOR of this bill to protect children from content that can harm them.

Carol Polhemus, Mrs.

Self

Kyle, TX

Please, pass this bill in order to protect our children from this harmful content. I am a retired teacher and a parent and grandmother.

Deana Johnston

Texas Eagle Forum, Communications Director

Dallas, TX

Please vote YES for HB 3225. Children must be protected from sexually explicit content. Schools and public libraries must take responsibility for protecting their students from obscene and inappropriate material.

Jan Shedd

MAGA voter

Kaufman, TX

It's an embarrassing disgrace that America's war on children is being waged in Texas. Only people who want to destroy our future support this madness. This is a sick mess that Texas needs to clean up from top to bottom. We should be setting an example for the rest of the nation and protect our children instead of throwing them to the wolves. In Mark 9:36 Jesus equates children with Himself. In other gospels, He admonishes us not to keep children from Him. If pornography doesn't do that, I don't know what does! It's a sad commentary on our culture that laws like this have to be passed in order to comport with common decency not to mention common sense. But they do and they must. The children cannot defend themselves. It's up to the grownups. Do not fail them.

Justin Green
Self, Library Assistant
Austin, TX

I am writing today to urge you to strongly oppose Texas HB3225. This bill is problematic because it attacks access to books in public libraries. HB3225 forbids municipal public libraries from allowing anyone under 18 to access “sexually explicit” materials without clearly defining “sexually explicit.”

In order to comply with this vague legislation, libraries would have to restrict anyone under 18 to children’s/teen/YA sections—they could not be allowed into the library’s sections for the general (adult) public, where they might encounter “sexually explicit” books. Second, it would restrict the books that can be made available in those children’s/teen/YA sections. No sex-ed books, no descriptions of “sexual contact” in YA novels meant for older teens. Art books would be at risk, as would innocent books like Eric Carle’s *Draw Me a Star* and Maurice Sendak’s *In the Night Kitchen*.

Additionally, small and rural libraries that do not have separate areas for children, teens, and adult library materials would not be able to properly serve the needs of all community members under this bill. I strongly urge you to vote against HB3225 and to protect my First Amendment freedom to access information.

Chris Davis
Self
Tolar, TX
Vote Yes!

Lorraine Stehn
Self
McAllen, TX

Censorship and book banning has no place in our public libraries. Librarians should be left to determine the books purchased for their library shelves and parents should determine which books should be read by their children.

Charlotte Harris
self
Magnolia, TX

Please keep your hands off our public libraries. Parents should have the right and responsibility to determine what their children should be able to read. Banning access to books is a known step to turning a democracy into an autocracy. This is another example of a non-existent problem that our government is trying to interfere with our rights.

Yue Jiang, Dr
self
Fort Worth, TX

As a long-time patron of public libraries, I am opposed to HB 3225. This bill fails to provide meaningful guidelines for determining when a piece of literature should be considered “sexually explicit” or “patently offensive.” As we’ve seen time and again, such vague and subjective descriptors are readily exploited by individuals and groups promoting anti-intellectual and prejudiced agendas; none of this benefits the learning environment of our state’s children.

We are in the middle of a literacy crisis, and the last thing our children need is to be micromanaged and coddled when it comes to the development of basic literacy and critical reading skills. As a child, I was reading over 20 books a year and regularly supplementing my schooling with additional material made freely accessible by public libraries. Not once did I ever encounter pornographic material or experience a text I would have considered harmful, even if I did at times read books that were marketed toward a more adult audience. I thrived because my parents and educators gave me the tools to properly contextualize written material and the capability to independently apply my own discernment. The capacity to read, reflect, and assess even difficult or uncomfortable material has given me immense advantages, and that is not a door I am willing to shut for the children of the present day who are still in the early phases of their learning journeys.

Carol Krenzke

self/retired

Manvel, TX

I am writing today to urge you to strongly oppose Texas HB3225, which will be presented before your committee on April 14, 2025.

This bill is problematic because

- o it attacks access to books in public libraries by forbidding anyone under 18 to access “sexually explicit” materials without clearly defining “sexually explicit.”
- o in order for libraries to comply, anyone under 18 could not be allowed into the library’s sections for the general (adult) public, where they might encounter “sexually explicit” books.
- o small and rural libraries that do not have separate areas for children, teens, and adult library materials would not be able to properly serve the needs of all community members under this bill.
- o it would restrict the books that can be made available in the children’s, teen, YA sections. No sex-ed books, no descriptions of “sexual contact” in YA novels meant for older teens. Art books would be at risk, as would innocent age-appropriate children’s books.
- o it disregards parental rights. As the bill is written, there is not even an option for parents to opt out of the restricted access for their own children. Parents - not the government - should determine what books are and are not appropriate for their children to read.

I strongly urge you to vote against HB3225 and to protect my First Amendment freedom to access information and for Texas parents to determine appropriate content for our children.

Brenda Horton

self

Midland, TX

I oppose this bill and the over reach it has of deciding what public libraries can offer to its patrons. Parents have the authority and it should never belong to the government.

Jacquelyn Owens

self

Memphis, TX

Parents are the ultimate authority over their children and reading selections they make. It is not the government's. I OPPOSE THIS BILL. It is the right of Public Libraries to provide unfettered access to reading materials. This bill does not support this right. It is a slap in the face to parents, children and the general public.

Thomas Sims, Mr.

Self

Utopia, TX

This is a gross overreach of government involvement in private citizens' personal lives and choices, and a blatant violation of parents' rights. What's wrong with you?

Amrita Starche

Self

Austin, TX

Never in history have the people limiting access to books or education been on the right side of history. This bill is yet another example of the USA’s slide into fascism. The vague language of this bill is clearly designed to shut libraries down by making it impossible to otherwise prevent children from having access to “forbidden” books. This is extreme government overreach. If you actually wanted to protect our children, you would be banning guns. Banning books has nothing to do with protection and everything to do with control, manipulation, removing resources from the poor and having a population whose ignorance makes them easier to exploit. This is shameful. VOTE NO on HB 3225.

Victoria Messer

Self

Austin, TX

AGAINST

This bill, which is basically a LGBTQIA+ book ban and a violation of the first amendment.

Dalton Graham

Self

Temple, TX

AGAINST

Queer representation is not “sexually explicit” material.

Dalton Graham

Self

Temple, TX

Queer representation in books is not “sexually explicit” material.

Brianna McDonough

Self

Austin, TX

Against. Banning books goes against free speech and free choice. If you don't want to read a certain book, don't.

Cynthia Anderson

Self

Harper, TX

I believe we as adults and parents should protect our children from sexual literature in our schools and libraries

Susan Conway

Self

Bogata, TX

This bill should be common sense. Let children have a childhood. There is no valid reason that a child should be exposed to sexually explicit materials. Do right by Texas children. They deserve a healthy childhood .

Sincerely,

Susan Conway

Patricia Kuykendall

Self

Wimberley, TX

I am in favor of this bill. Children should be protected from harmful content.

Mary Carson

None

Dallas, TX

Protect children

mike o'donnell, Mr

Self

San Antonio, TX

I wholeheartedly support this bill and ask you to pass it to protect children!

John Crow

Self/Concrete Supervisor

Tyler, TX

I am in favor of this bill, for children ought not have access to sexually explicit content.

Cheon-Joo Lee, Mr.

self

new braunfels, TX

I am IN FAVOR because children should be protected from content that is harmful to them.

Deidra Miniard, Dr.

Self

Austin, TX

I oppose HB 3225 restricting library materials for the following reasons:

This bill misleadingly frames itself as "protecting children" while ignoring the real concerns of educators and parents. It uses the false frame that libraries are flooding children's sections with inappropriate materials, when libraries already have standards for age appropriate materials and a reporting process when it happens. The bill's supporters are not acknowledging a critical fact: no one wants young children accessing inappropriate material. This legislation goes beyond reasonable protections for something that should be handled on a case-by-case basis, and treats a 6-year-old and 16-year-old as identical in maturity and developmental needs.

By referencing Penal Code §43.25, the definition of "sexually explicit material" becomes dangerously broad. This criminal statute was designed to prosecute child exploitation—not to regulate library collections. Under this definition, materials that merely "describe" anything resembling "sexual conduct" could include classic literature (Romeo and Juliet), historical works (The Diary of Anne Frank), and crucial health education resources. This sweeping definition would restrict access to materials that teens need for healthy development, or even what they might need for their AP literature classes.

This legislation represents government overreach into local community decisions. Municipal libraries already have established collection development policies and procedures to address misplaced materials. More importantly, this bill undermines parental authority by applying a one-size-fits-all standard to all minors regardless of age. Parents, not the state, should decide what's appropriate for their children to read. The bill provides no mechanism for parents to grant permission if their teen needs to access a restricted book for educational purposes.

The religious materials exemption creates a troubling double standard—a religious text describing sexual content would remain accessible to minors while a health textbook with identical information would be restricted. This not only privileges religious content over secular content but potentially violates 1st Amendment principles requiring government neutrality toward religion. This inconsistency reveals the bill's flawed logic: if certain content is truly harmful to minors, why would it suddenly become acceptable when presented in religious context?

This bill creates an unsustainable financial burden on libraries while their funding is being cut. Implementing age verification systems, conducting mandatory reviews, and responding to unlimited public petitions within ten days would overwhelm already limited resources. Many smaller libraries cannot comply with these unfunded mandates. The severe penalties will create a chilling effect. Libraries will likely remove potentially controversial materials rather than risk devastating penalties, reducing access for the entire community.

Dawn Ann Ritter

Self

Franklin, TX

I am for getting rid of these explicit books

Sheila Bean

Texas First Conservative Alliance

Lampasas, TX

Please vote to send H B3225 on to the House floor for full consideration. Please vote yes on this bill. As a former elementary school teacher I believe weUST Protext our children's minds from the trash and filth of sexually explicit materials. Please support this bill.

Stephanie Williams

Self

Grapevine, TX

Please protect the rights of all library patrons. The definition of "sexually explicit material" is being used to unfairly restrict the materials available to library users. Parents and librarians are best equipped to determine what is appropriate for readers. A library is a place where readers should find an array of stories and histories, not just those white-washed by the few in charge. Vote against this measure.

Sheryl Kreick

Self retired

Richardson, TX

"I am in favor of this bill as children do not need access to sexually explicit content"

Diana BOYD

self

San Marcos, TX

I strongly support this bill. Please vote YES to protect the children
Thank you. Diana Boyd

Stephen Harris, Mr

Independent

Terrell, TX

I believe our children should not have access to books with explicit sexual content.

Raschel Harbison, Ms

Self

Kyle, TX

am writing today to urge you to strongly oppose Texas HB3225, which will be presented before your State Affairs committee on April 14, 2025. This bill is problematic because it attacks access to books in public libraries. HB3225 forbids municipal public libraries from allowing anyone under 18 to access “sexually explicit” materials without clearly defining "sexually explicit."

In order to comply with this vague legislation, libraries would have to restrict anyone under 18 to children’s/teen/YA sections—they could not be allowed into the library’s sections for the general (adult) public, where they might encounter “sexually explicit” books. Second, it would restrict the books that can be made available in those children’s/teen/YA sections. No sex-ed books, no descriptions of “sexual contact” in YA novels meant for older teens. Art books would be at risk, as would innocent books like Eric Carle’s Draw Me a Star and Maurice Sendak’s In the Night Kitchen.

Additionally, small and rural libraries that do not have separate areas for children, teens, and adult library materials would not be able to properly serve the needs of all community members under this bill. I strongly urge you to vote against HB3225 and to protect my First Amendment freedom to access information.

Mary Webers

Self / Recruiter

Plano, TX

I am in support

Claire Adams

Self

Cedar Park, TX

As a born and raised Texan who has spent countless hours in public libraries as a child, I support this bill. It would be an embarrassment to our state if we can’t pass a standard as evidently moral as this.

Deborah Greer, Ms

Richardson Republican Women’s Club

Richardson, TX

I am in favor of this Bill as children do not need to access sexually explicit content.

JOY ROBERTS

Grayson County Conservatives

Howe, TX

I strongly support HB 3225. Our public libraries should be a safe place for our kids and teens to enjoy, free from sexually explicit material. This bill provides clear standards and accountability, ensuring taxpayer dollars aren’t funding inappropriate content for minors. Please vote YES on HB 3225 and help make Texas libraries family-friendly.

Peggy Hegwer

Children

San Marcos, TX

I am in FAVOR OF HB 3225 ! Please STOP putting porn and filth in Public Libraries funded by Tax payer dollars! Tax paying citizens have had enough. Certainly never appropriate for children!

Paula Moore
retired
San Antonio, TX

I support this House Bill 3225.

Elda Jacobsen
Self
Wimberley, TX

I am in FAVOR of HB3225. Our Children need protection from people and harmful materials.

David Boyd
retired/self
San Marcos, TX

I strongly support this bill HB3225

Sherry Eller
Self
Temple, TX

Support HB3225. Protect our children. Public libraries should be a safe environment for children, including teens, free from sexually explicit material.

Carolyn Hodges
Self
Dripping springs, TX

I'm in FaVOR...children deserve protection and innocence.

Alicia Hill
Self
KYLE, TX

I am IN FAVOR because children should be protected from content that is harmful to them

Alicia Hill
Self
KYLE, TX

I am IN FAVOR because children should be PROTECTED from ANYTHING that is harmful to them.

Renee Graham
Self. Retired
Hideaway, TX

Please remove inappropriate sexually explicit material from our children's libraries. Let them BE children while they can be.

Eileen Thompson
Self
Richardson, TX

I am in favor of this bill. Please pass.

Jake Jacobsen
Self
Wimberley, TX

I am in FAVOR of HB3225. Our children need protection from people and material that will do them harm.

Catherine Tolliver, Mrs
self
Richardson, TX

I support the bill.

Vicki Anthony
self
San Marcos, TX

I am in favor of protecting our children. Please vote YES on HB 3225.

Adriana Bonilla
Self
New Braunfels, TX

As a mother of two young children i fully support this bill it is long over due.

Minnie Jean Caruth, Mrs.
Park City Republican Women
Nemo, TX

Children must be protected

Rodney Anthony
Self
San Marcos, TX

I am in FAVOR of this bill which helps to protect our children.

Lana Allred
Self
Leonard, TX

I support HB3225 removing porn from public and school libraries. Our children deserve protection.

Pamela McDonald
None
Dallas, TX

I am in favor of this bill. Children do not need to be looking at sexual contact in Books.

Shirley Raven
Self, retired RN
Richardson, TX

I am in favor of this, Bill as children do not need sexually explicit materials available to them.

Stacey schieffelin

Self

irving, TX

YES I am IN FAVOR of this Bill as children do not need access to sexually explicit content...

Ruth Slagel, Dr

Chaplain

Richardson, TX

I am in favor of this bill because our children do not need access to explicit sexual content

David Schieffelin

Self

Irving, TX

I am in favor of this bill as children do not need access to sexually explicit content.

Wendy Wilkinson

self

Houston, TX

No library offers sexually explicit material to minors. That means this is some underhanded way to censor books. We know that everytime you make a law against a non-existent problem, it's because the Texas government wants more control over us. Stop the overreach of state government and get rid of this bill.

Ripley Beaver

self

Richmond, TX

This bill is too broad and will restrict access to educational resources that Americans might not have ready access to. Education is a right and restricting access promotes ignorance.

Jennifer Thomas

Self, Librarian

Austin, TX

I urge you to vote against HB 3225. I work in a public library. Public libraries properly catalog youth materials according to level and content. Here is an example of a leveling policy in a public library system in a city in Texas: <https://library.austintexas.gov/node/1734587>. Public libraries are very clear with leveling and cataloging about what materials are appropriate for what ages. Families use these cataloging designations to know what is appropriate for their children. The state of Texas does not need to interfere with this process. It not the place of the state to think it knows better than the professional librarians who created these leveling policies. Nor is it the place of the state to interfere with municipal sovereignty. The author of this bill is from Tyler, a city of approximately 100,000 people. What might serve his community would not necessarily apply to large cities like Houston, Dallas, Ft. Worth, San Antonio, Austin, or El Paso. The state should not create an expensive cookie cutter system and impose it on all Texas communities. Public libraries are busy places and operate on narrow budgets already. The state would be naive to create a system of book review, re-cataloging and rearranging and then expect municipalities to have the funds or staffing to do it. This bill is just political theater. It is a politician trying to create a policy for a non-issue, and then causing all kinds of problems as a result. No to HB 3225.

Courtney Kincaid

self - librarian

Weatherford, TX

Hello, my name is Courtney Kincaid. I am asking Representatives to oppose HB3225, which the State Affairs Committee will hear on Monday. For years, we have been told that books being removed from public school libraries and classrooms are not book bans because parents and students can find those books at their local public library. Now, this bill is proposing to restrict our children's access to books in our local public libraries, too. As the bill is written, there is not even an option for parents to opt out of the restricted access for their own children. Parents - not the government - should determine what books are and are not appropriate for their own children to read. Please protect Texas parents' rights and vote "no" on HB 3225.

Thank you,

Courtney Kincaid

Shannon Ayres

Self

Frisco, TX

I strongly support HB3225. Our public library's should be a safe environment for children, including teens, free from sexually explicit material. This bill provides clear standards and accountability. Please vote yes on HB 3225 and help make Texas libraries family friendly.

Thank you,

Sherri Duchin

Self

Spring, TX

I oppose this bill. Libraries should continue to carry the range of books currently vetted by librarians. Parents can oversee what their children read and check out. This bill is overly broad and restrictive and is a form of censorship for the majority of taxpayers who fund public libraries.

Please vote No.

thank you.

April Underwood

Self/stay at home mom

Midland, TX

In favor of HB 3225

Nicholas Joseph

Self

Austin, TX

I am a concerned parent writing to voice my strong opposition developing a lifelong love for reading to HB 3225. As a child, I loved to read, and my parents encouraged me to read anything I was interested in. This resulted in me developing a lifelong love of reading, which helped me excel in school and develop a great career. As a taxpayer, who has already payed taxes for libraries and library materials to be available, I want the same for my children. If they choose to read a book that the government has deemed "sexually explicit", then, as a parent, I can review the book, discuss it with my children and we can decide as a family if it is appropriate for them. I DO NOT want the government trying to make those decisions for me. If the Texas government is concerned about about minor's access to sexually explicit materials, then it should be focus on restricting access to pornography on the internet, which is where minor's are likely to find material that is truly objectionable. Kids reading books in libraries is not a problem any parent I know is concerned about, so please, leave the kids alone and let them READ! Taking books and libraries away from kids and parents is not good policy, and cannot be a good political strategy either. Please, I implore you to reject this bill and allow our kids to access library materials that taxpayers have already paid for. Leave the parenting to the parents, and respectfully, stay out if it. Thank you.

Mark Byrd

Self

New Braunfels, TX

I am totally in favor of removing all sexually explicit material from our public schools and libraries

Jessica Etzler

Self- IT Project Coordinator

New Braunfels, TX

I am in favor of this bill as children do not need access to sexually explicit content.

Kenneth Ahrens

Solomon porch

Canyon lake, TX

Yes I am in favor of this bill

"I am in favor of this bill as children do not need access to sexually explicit content"

Marcy Salinas, Ms.

Self, retired

New Braunfels, TX

I am in favor of this bill, as children do not need to see sexually explicit material. Thank you for serving in our great state.

Catherine Eckert

Solomon's porch

Fischer, TX

Yes in favor of the bill

Lacy Pfitzinger

Self

Cibolo, TX

I am in favor of this bill as children do not need access to sexually explicit content

Gary Wilson

self

Gilmer, TX

I strongly support HB 3225. Our public libraries should be safe environments for children, including teens, free from sexually explicit material. This bill provides clear standards and accountability, ensuring taxpayer dollars aren't funding inappropriate content for minors. Please vote YES on HB 3225 and help make Texas libraries family-friendly.

Rachel Galbreath

Self / sales representative

New Braunfels, TX

I am in favor of this bill. Children do not need sexually explicit content.

Joeylynn Mesaros

Self

New Braunfels, TX

I am IN FAVOR of this bill to protect children from pornographic and explicit books, to be moved to the adult section. This is not a book ban, but a practical solution to keep Texas children safe.

Patrick Beene

Self

New Braunfels, TX

I'm in favor of this bill as children do not need access to sexually explicit content.

Qin Peng

Self

New Braunfels, TX

I'm in favor of this bill as children do not need to access sexually explicit content

Michele Allen

Self

Midland, TX

Texans do not want pornography around minors in our public libraries and in our school libraries. Move these books to the adult areas of the public libraries!

Charlci Ahrens, Mrs.

Self

Canyon Lake, TX

YES—I am in favor of this bill as children do not need access to sexually explicit content!

Whitney Davey

self, Revenue Accountant

New Braunfels, TX

I am in favor of this bill as children don't need access to sexually explicit content

Crystal Byrd, Mrs

Self

New Braunfels, TX

I am in favor of removing all sexually explicit materials

Adair Winter

self

Amarillo, TX

I am submitting public comment FOR HB 3225.

Tara Evans

Self

Canyon Lake, TX

We need to stop the distribution of these books in public libraries.

Regan Licciardello

Self

Llano, TX

I am in FAVOR of this bill. A society is judged by how it protects its children. Libraries are filled with books which contain very harmful (and criminal) content. Children's mind get literally raped by these images and verbiage. Please do better! This bill does not ban books. Books are simply moved to adult section so minors don't happen upon it. There is a book with disclaimer that disclaim responsibility for any adverse effects which may result from use of information contained in this book. What? There are books with QR codes that take minors to sex shops and sex videos. There are books that mention sex with Jesus. This is an abomination. Please vote for this common sense bill.

Mary Pryor

Grace Preparatory Academy

New Braunfels, TX

The children of Texas deserve to be protected from sexually explicit material. Please pass this bill to benefit our children.

Cheryl Johnson

Self

Odessa, TX

Minors do not need access to sexually explicit or pervasively vulgar content or pornography!

Anne Russey

Texas Freedom to Read Project & self

Katy, TX

As a Texas parent-founded, parent-led volunteer organization, Texas Freedom to Read Project shares and appreciates this body's interest in protecting Texas children- our children- from harm.

While the stated intent of HB 3225 is to protect children from "sexually explicit material in municipal libraries by imposing a civil penalty," we believe the law would result in more harm than good.

As Texas parents who have been fighting for our children and teenagers' right to read in our own communities for years, we know that a handful of activists and political groups have been advocating for the restriction and removal of books from our public schools and libraries.

We have been told that restricting and removing a book from our kids' public schools, "is not a book ban" because families like ours can find the same book at our local municipal library. Meanwhile, we know, activists have been working to restrict and remove the same books from municipal libraries, too.

Now HB 3225 proposes to solidify the government's agreement with the book banners- that they- not parents- know best what books are and are not appropriate for our children and teenagers to read.

HB 3225 mandates municipal libraries relocate "sexually explicit" books as broadly defined by HB 3225 to adult only sections of the library. Unaccompanied teenage municipal library patrons (ie our teenage children) will thereby be limited to browsing and borrowing only whatever books remain in the unrestricted minor's section of the municipal library. HB 3225 requires the government to infringe on our rights as parents to direct our own children's education by removing the availability of books and information we would otherwise like them to have access to. There is no opt-in or opt-out mechanism for parents to override the government owned municipal library or Texas State Library and Archives Commission's judgement over books they - not parents- deem "sexually explicit" and therefore off limits to our children and teenagers.

Texas Freedom to Read Project thanks the State Affairs Committee for considering our perspective and the parental rights of ALL Texas parents. We want Texas parents - not the government- to remain the decision makers in what books our own children and teenagers do and do not have access to.

Please don't micromanage our local public libraries by imposing subjective, cumbersome restrictions and expensive financial penalties to try to appease the handful of activists and political groups asking the government to intervene.

Please keep the state government out of matters that should continue to be handled between every parent and their own children and teenagers, in partnership with our local municipal libraries. Please vote "against" HB 3225.

Linda Martin

Self

San Angelo, TX

For it.. to protect our children!

Steve Ceh, Pastor

Solomon's Porch Ministries

New Braunfels, TX

This is a crucial bill that I am in favor for the protection of all children. Sexually explicit material for children is damaging to their mental, physical and emotional state. We do not need this trend of immorality to be pushed and propagated on our children.

Cassandra Nochole

Myself

Amarillo, TX

My name is Cassandra Greene and I am representing myself and I am submitting public comment FOR HB 3225.

Mike Miller
self - Librarian
Galveston, TX

I am writing in opposition to HB 3225. This bill only serves to gut public libraries, cost taxpayers millions of dollars (for what it will cost libraries to comply), and infringes on our First Amendment rights. As written, the bill does not even offer an opt-out option for parents to allow their children to read what they want. Parents, not the government, should determine what books are or are not appropriate for their children to read. Not you. Indeed, passing this bill as written could lead libraries to ban anyone under the age of 18 from even entering out of fear that they may come across something that one person has determined is too explicit for ANY person under 18. I would even say that if passed, this bill would not only offer little or no protection to minors, it may even cause harm as it would drive them away from one of the last few safe spaces in our communities these days and into the deep, dark recesses of the Internet for the information they want. Is that what you really want? Please protect our constitutional right to read what we choose to read and protect a parent's right to determine what is best for their children and vote No on this bill. Thank you.

Tiffany Rogers
Myself
Amarillo, TX

I am in favor of this bill. Stop sexualizing our children and protect them at all cost.

Randy Henson
Life Church New Braunfels
New Braunfels, TX

I strongly believe that children do not need access to sexually explicit content!

Carol Kim
Self/writer
Austin, TX

Please oppose HB3225 that will be heard by the State Affairs Committee on Monday. It is tragic that there is a movement to limit children's access to books and to knowledge. There is so much fear being spread that is harming all people, but especially children.

For years, we have been told that books being removed from public school libraries and classrooms, are not book bans, because parents and students can find those books at their local public library. Now, this bill is proposing to restrict our kids' access to books in our local public libraries, too. As the bill is written, there is not even an option for parents to opt out of the restricted access for their own children. Parents- not the government- should determine what books are and are not appropriate for their own children to read. Please protect Texas parent's rights, and vote "no" on HB3225."

Kendall Starr
Self
Canyon Lake, TX

"I am in favor of this bill as children do not need access to sexually explicit content that promotes self harm and destroys healthy sexuality.

Mary Hughes
Self retired
Amarillo, TX

Vote FOR! Our children and grandchildren do not need to be exposed to sexually explicit materials. Actually, no one no matter what age or sex needs to be exposed to this nonsense. What has happened to our moral standards?

Kathleen Young

Self

Midland, TX

Please pass this bill. We tried locally and only got the books moved. Meanwhile our librarians order more sexually contented books! Stop this madness.

Kayla Cobble

Self

Austin, TX

My name is Kayla Cobble. I'm writing to express my opposition to HB 3225.

When I was ten years old, my mother started what would become a series of serious conversations about sex. After this initial discussion, my grandmother, a nurse, gave me a coloring book with age-appropriate illustrations of human bodies to demonstrate the physical changes that occur during puberty.

I was raised in a Christian household, but my mother and grandmother understood the curiosity and impulsivity that accompanies adolescence, and they managed their expectations by preaching abstinence while also providing me with the knowledge I needed to practice safe sex during my teenage years.

This direct approach, as difficult as it must have been for them, was successful. The engagement and empathy articulated by my mother, and the entertainment and education offered by my grandmother, gave me the wisdom to make better choices than most of my friends and schoolmates, who turned to ill-informed peers or reality-distorting pornography to access information about sex.

How does this relate to books? I was an avid reader throughout childhood, and I borrowed books from the library above my grade-level, including adult novels. My parents didn't limit my literary choices, because they knew I was mature enough to stop reading, or ask questions about, any material that made me uncomfortable.

I'm not a religious person, but I admire how my mother and grandmother were able to advocate for their spirituality while still acknowledging my reality; and they did this by asking, "What is practical when it comes to protecting my child?"

Let's apply that question to this bill. Is it practical to expect librarians, who already manage multiple roles, to add another responsibility to their workload? Is it practical to remove meaningful or foundational books because they contain a subjectively questionable portion? Is it practical to rescind funds from a vital resource for underprivileged students due to what could amount to a misinterpretation of vague guidelines? Is it practical to restrict children from entering libraries that are unable to separate their minor and adult sections? Bearing in mind that visiting the public library is voluntary, and choosing which, if any, books to borrow is discretionary, I don't believe these ideas are practical.

In my opinion, what is practical is for parents to: communicate with their children about sex; explain expectations to, and set boundaries for, their children regarding the content they consume; and accompany their child to, or monitor the materials from, the library if there are specific moral concerns.

I understand the instinct to protect children, and the desire to preserve their innocence, but HB 3225 is not a sensible bill for Texas families. It's unethical to apply the specific concerns of a minority of parents to the majority of children across the state. Every household should have the right to make independent choices for their family.

William McWhorter, Chairman/President
Republican Party of Gregg County/East Texas Young Republicans/Self
Longview, TX

Good morning Chairman King, and respective members of the committee. I strongly support this legislation by Rep. Alders. This is a serious matter, and Rep. Alders has appropriate legislation addressing this issue. This is not only important policy for our children today, but for future generations. I respectfully encourage all of you to vote yes on this bill so our libraries are safe from sexually explicit material for children and teens. We want to make sure our tax dollars do not fund inappropriate material, and this bill will help address that, as well as provide accountability standards going forward. Thank you for your consideration.

Wanda Bass
Self/Retired
Amarillo, TX
Vote for HB3225

Samarah Meil
Self
Amarillo, TX

My name is Samarah Meil and I am representing myself and I am submitting public comment FOR HB 3225.

Brenda K Estis
Self/Retired
Houston, TX

I SUPPORT this bill! We need to protect our children!

Dr. Lynne Walters
self
The Woodlands, TX

I've been a teacher educator for 20 years. I know how hard it is to get students to get students to conduct document-related research. Students find it much easier to use AI for their research projects. Restrict access to the general collection and you'll lose generations of young people who can analyze information, think critically, and communicate effectively. Cutting off their access to the millions of books because of the few that might be "sexually explicit" will cause irreparable harm to them and the future of our State.

Dawn Orsak, Ms.
self
Austin, TX

As a parent, I am against the bill. The government must not interfere with my rights as a parent to decide what books are and are not appropriate for my 16-year-old to read. That is my right alone. With no opt-in, opt-out requirement for me to decide what books and sections of the public library my child may access, my rights are restricted. I urge you to protect Texas parent's rights, and vote "no" on HB3225.

Melissa France
self; self employed
Pilot Point, TX

I oppose this bill as it would aid in destroying libraries, which as cornerstones of communities across Texas. No one is exposing children to sexually explicit material in libraries. This is ridiculous. Save our libraries so that our children can continue to learn and grow as productive citizens. Do NOT pass this bill.

John Morris
self - retired
Georgetown, TX

Why are we banning books?? Books were never banned when I was in school, nor were they banned when my children and grandchildren were in school. This makes no sense to start banning them now. If there are books that parents don't want their child to read, that is between the parent and their child - it should not be mandatory for all children. This sounds more like meddling in other people's affairs instead of taking care of your own affairs.....it really needs to stop!

joanne groshardt, me
richardson libraryb--one o fthe best innnnation
richardson, TX

What dumbass came up with this. Some kid raised in a Pentecostal Cult whose dad caught them with a a Playboy under their mattress or looking through a "Gray's Anatomy book??"

Cynthia Kent
Self/retired public school educator
Mount Vernon, TX

Access to published material should be prohibited only by a minor's parent or guardian. Each child is different. We do NOT live in a society where we need the government to make those decisions. That would be Nazi Germany. I will work diligently to see that anyone who supports this bill is defeated in the next election.

Javier Ruiz, Mr
Self, teacher
Odessa, TX

Who deems this material as offensive? If the Federal government doesn't have law like this because it can't define what is offensive, how can Texas? This is government over reach into private citizens business. I oppose this bill because when does it stop? If this bill passes, what is next? The maker of this bill should go to a public library and see what its policies are. Many libraries already limit exposure of offensive material to minors. To have a law like this, however, is government overreach!

Karen Trost, Ms.
self/editor
Keller, TX

I am against the passage of HB 3225 because libraries should be accessible to all without restrictions. Librarians are there to help patrons access knowledge, not police who is reading what. Let parents who are so concerned about what their children are reading police them; they could even read controversial material themselves rather than relying on hearsay.

Maggie Bootman
Self
Alpine, TX

As a former public librarian and long time public library supporter, librarians are educated individuals who know how to select materials for all ages. They know what materials are appropriate for all ages. The government should not be filing these bill. Let librarians choose the materials best suited for their communities and let parents choose what is best for their child. Librarians know what they are doing. I do not support this bill

Karen Dettloff
Self- Librarian
Lake Jackson, TX

This bill is damaging to all libraries. Libraries have policies and procedures in place that allow the community to have a voice in their collections. If anyone disagrees with an item in the collection, they have a way to communicate that to staff for a review. Libraries keep materials separated by age group. For anyone under the age of 18 parents or guardians have to give permission for them to have a card. This bill does nothing but block access to those that need the library and its resources. Let librarians do their jobs.

Rebecca Moeckel
Self
BELTON, TX

There is absolutely no reason to prevent children and teens from being able to have access to the library. The library was my safe place as a child. It encouraged my love of reading and imagination. And, honestly, the last I checked, the library isn't the place to access porn. Porn is the only thing that should be restricted from children and teens. Different ideas are not evil. Different viewpoints authored by people who are different from you are not evil. This is another attempt to limit access to knowledge and different viewpoints. It's limiting free speech. THAT is the true evil here.

JASON NICHOLSON
Self
San Antonio, TX

I strongly oppose Texas HB3225, which will be presented before your State Affairs committee on April 14, 2025. This bill is problematic because it attacks access to books in public libraries. HB3225 forbids municipal public libraries from allowing anyone under 18 to access "sexually explicit" materials without clearly defining "sexually explicit." In order to comply with this vague legislation, libraries would have to restrict anyone under 18 to children's/teen/YA sections—they could not be allowed into the library's sections for the general (adult) public, where they might encounter "sexually explicit" books. Second, it would restrict the books that can be made available in those children's/teen/YA sections. No sex-ed books, no descriptions of "sexual contact" in YA novels meant for older teens. Art books would be at risk, as would innocent books like Eric Carle's *Draw Me a Star* and Maurice Sendak's *In the Night Kitchen*. Additionally, small and rural libraries that do not have separate areas for children, teens, and adult library materials would not be able to properly serve the needs of all community members under this bill. I strongly urge you to vote against HB3225 and to protect my First Amendment freedom to access information.

Mary Woodard
self - retired
Desoto, TX

I would like to register my opposition to HB 3225. When did it become ok for the government to decide who can access anything in a public library? Shouldn't it be the parent's choice? As a voracious reader, I was in the 6th grade when my mother allowed me to start checking out books from the adult section of the public library. I'm sure I read things that might be classified as "sexually explicit" under this bill's broad definition. What is "sexual contact" anyway? Does kissing count? Whether intended or not, this bill will limit a young person's right to read and limit a parent's right to determine what books their own child should have access to and should not be passed from this committee.

Anna Meriano

Self, teacher and author

Houston, TX

As an author for young readers and a private tutor for students K-12, I strongly oppose this bill. Libraries are vital resources for many of my students, and the overzealous prohibitions of this bill will not make children safer, but will restrict their access to the library itself and make jobs harder for librarians. Conventional wisdom and research shows that blocking children from learning about difficult topics does not protect them; it makes them ignorant and vulnerable to abuse. Libraries are already working hard to cater to the needs of their patrons, and do not require added legislation to hamper their ability to do so. There is no place in Texas for censorship, book banning, or attacks on libraries.

pamela e ferguson

self

austin, TX

As an Austin based global author - I am deeply concerned about HB 3225. Any form of censorship, coupled with current federal efforts to defund libraries and vital literary projects - abuses Democracy. As Americans we cherish our First Amendment rights and our access to wonderfully stocked libraries. Censoring books does not protect our kids - they see and research everything online as it is! Censoring only makes them more curious. Please vote against HB 3225!!

Ann Stout, Dr.

self- retired physician

Houston, TX

Present-day attempts to control minors' access to any type of content is destined to fail because of the internet and the world wide web. Children will find what they want to find.

The list of banned books that have since been reevaluated as providing important content for young adults (which includes teenagers) is long and includes books by Margaret Atwood (The Handmaids Tale) and Toni Morrison (The Bluest Eye). Many of the issues around developing sexuality in more recent books like Looking for Alaska by John Green allow children to find a character to identify with, so they do not feel so alone. Unfortunately, the books that deal with violence or abuse may also be the only way that children in those situations feel comfortable talking to trusted adults about their situation. The mental health problems from feeling unseen, or different, are greater than the possible impact of being exposed to sexuality which is a natural part of becoming an adult.

This bill is a well-intentioned effort to protect our children from harm. The money and time that would be required to decide what material falls under this new bill could be better spent on public programs that promote and offer programs that help children feel better about themselves, such as music programs, arts, sports, and safe outdoor spaces.

Brad Englert

Self

West Lake Hills, TX

I'm in opposition to Texas House Bill 3225, which would impose mandatory restrictions on minors' access to certain public library books, and does not allow for any parental opt-in or opt-out.

The bill uses vague terms such as "describes or depicts" sexual conduct, similar to other vague and unconstitutional laws. Moreover, a library that is found to violate the law may be defunded in the following fiscal year, in addition to being subject to penalties of \$10,000 for each violation. This is an unwarranted scare tactic designed to make libraries steer clear of books that might prompt challenges, which are often works by eclectic authors and/or on eclectic topics.

Newton Brumit

Self

Troup, TX

Please do not interfere with the first amendment and young peoples need to access free public resources to enrich and develop into adults. Even the bible has the subject matter that you are attacking. I know you will exemp it. Let parents be in charge of their children and don't try to legislate economically challenged parents rights to raise their children using available resources.

Anthony Adam
Self
HOUSTON, TX

As a former academic librarian and frequent public library user, I know that certain sexually explicit materials are already under restricted access; that access has been a longtime process and policy for public libraries especially for at least a century. The two difficulties I see with this proposed bill are (1) defining "sexually explicit materials" to the satisfaction of all parties, as some individuals could say any mention of sexuality including reproduction could be considered "explicit," and (2) eliminating the ability of any individual child's parents to give permission for the child to access the materials; why should the State have the power to tell the parents what their own child can and cannot see? Additionally, does the bill provide for limiting a child's access to any open stacks? Will the child be forbidden to open a medical textbook, for example, if the book is in the open stacks, or will all medical books be required to be in closed stacks? What about books on Greek and Roman mythology, which have the gods engaging in sexual congress on a regular basis? Would those be considered "explicit"?

Susan Miller
Self/ Author
Prosper, TX

This bill uses vague terms such as “describes or depicts” sexual conduct, similar to other vague and unconstitutional laws that have been disallowed in the past. I vehemently oppose this bill and request the House rethink the verbiage. Minors should absolutely be protected, but this bill is not written in a way to protect minors. It's divisive and steps on freedom of speech.

Tyler Darnell
Self
Houston, TX

This bill uses vague terms such as “describes or depicts” sexual conduct, similar to other vague and unconstitutional laws in the past. Moreover, a library that is found to violate the law may be defunded in the following fiscal year, in addition to being subject to penalties of \$10,000 for each violation. This is a scare tactic designed to make libraries steer clear of books that might prompt challenges, which are often works by LGBTQIA+ or BIPOC authors and/or on diverse topics. Individual parents may limit their child’s access to books if they wish. A nanny state is not small govt. it’s a violation of Texas citizens’ civil rights and equal access to information.

Lacey Schmidt
University of Houston
HOUSTON, TX

Please do not pass this bill as written. The structure is too vague and will create unnecessary censorship that violates our first amendment freedom!

Ron Scott, Major, USA, Ret.
Retired military officer and 2-war-disabled veteran
Cibolo, TX

Dear Honorable Texas House Committee Members,
As a retired military officer and disabled veteran, I ask you to not approve, forward or pass House Bill 3225. This bill, with all due respect, is vague and potentially unconstitutional in that it unduly restricts creative researchers from accessing necessary literary materials and punishes public libraries.
With all God's blessings and speed,
Respectfully,
Ron Scott, EdD. (UT, Austin, Higher Ed. Admin., 2004)
U.S. Navy (Vietnam-era veteran) and U.S. Army (AMSC Physical Therapist, Ret.

amanda moor-jay
self horse trainer
Dallas, TX

I oppose this bill to restrict the books in public libraries for minors. This is government intrusion into parental decisions. Parents are the ones who decide what an individual minor can and should read. NOT the government. The penalties on this bill are designed to suppress FREE SPEECH. Again I oppose this bill and any attempt by the state government to limit speech and parental rights in places funded by my taxes.

Shannan Peterson
Self
Austin, TX

Keep your hands off my libraries! My daughter has been going to a library since she was an infant. As her parent, I'm helping her and guiding her in what she can know and not know. I don't need the Texas government to handle that for me.

Donna Grant
Self, Novelist
Beaumont, TX

This is a scare tactic designed to make libraries steer clear of books that might prompt challenges, which are often works by LGBTQIA+ or BIPOC authors and/or on diverse topics.

Camila Davila Lohr
Self
Liberty hill, TX

This bill is unconstitutional to the freedom in america and caters to more religious groups, like Christians beliefs on wether sexual conducts are bad. The language used is very vague and can affect books that aren't sexually provocative or even explicit. I vehemently opposed to controlling books in such a way, and taking the powrr of parents with the education of their children—and in this case, teenagers and young adults.

Sean Cotter
self/teacher
McKinney, TX

Please hear my objection to this bill, on the grounds that it takes away parents' rights to opt in or out. It is state overreach, through vague language and excessive punishment.

DEBORAH LEIMBACH

Self-retired inner city ms/hs teacher and clinical laboratory scientist
New Braunfels, TX

Chair and Members of the Committee,

Imagine picking up a book that begins with this warning:

“The authors and publisher expressly disclaim responsibility for any adverse effects that may result from the use or application of the information contained in this book.”

Would your first thought be, “Let’s make sure this is available to minors”?

That happened at the New Braunfels Public Library, where librarians approved Let’s Talk About It, a graphic health book subtitled “The Teen’s Guide to Sex, Relationships, and Being a Human,” for public access. Written by Ericka Moen and Matthew Nolan, the authors say this book is “for whoever needs it, whatever your age.” And librarians determined it was “educational” enough to shelve for young adults—later moving it to the general nonfiction section, 306.7, accessible to all ages, including children.

This book teaches minors:

- “A HAPPY vulva or penis is a WET vulva or penis.” (p. 116)
- “When consumed right, porn can help you discover new aspects of your sexuality... Go to the sites they [porn stars] recommend and pay for your porn.” (p. 164)
- “There is nothing wrong with enjoying some porn; it’s a fun sugary treat.” (p. 165)

This is what is available to children in a taxpayer-funded public library.

It doesn’t stop there. The New Braunfels library also allows minors to check out books by Colleen Hoover—a self-declared writer of “smutty romance.” She has even said books like Verity, Too Late, and Ugly Love are not appropriate for teens. Yet minors can access them without restriction.

This is not about censorship. It’s about common sense, accountability, and protecting children.

I wholeheartedly support HB 3225 because it addresses this issue responsibly. This bill does not ban books or restrict adults’ freedom to access them. It simply establishes necessary safeguards, clarifying where explicit materials should be shelved and ensuring minors’ access is managed appropriately.

HB 3225 empowers parents, promotes transparency, and reinforces the vital role of local libraries as safe, family-friendly spaces. It includes a non-criminal enforcement mechanism—civil penalties and the potential loss of state funding for non-compliance—so that taxpayer dollars are not used to subsidize the availability of sexually explicit material to minors.

As a parent, a grandparent, and a community member, I cannot stay silent while children are exposed to this kind of content. We are not talking about a few “controversial” books. We are talking about graphic depictions of sexual activity and advice on how to access porn—all available to children in our public libraries.

HB 3225 is a thoughtful, balanced, and urgently needed measure. It reflects the values of Texas families and ensures that our children can continue to learn and grow in age-appropriate and safe environments.

Please stand with parents. Stand with communities. And stand up for children.

I urge you to support and advance HB 3225.

Thank you for your time and support.

Karen Conyngham, Mrs.

self

Austin, TX, TX

I oppose HB3225 that will be heard by the State Affairs Committee on Monday April 14th. For years, we have been told that books being removed from public school libraries and classrooms, are not book bans, because parents and students can find those books at their local public library. Now, this bill is proposing to restrict our kids' access to books in our local public libraries, too. As the bill is written, there is not even an option for parents to opt out of the restricted access for their own children. Parents - not the government - should determine what books are and are not appropriate for their own children to read.

Please protect Texas parent's rights, and vote "no" on HB 3225."

Patricia Jolley, Ms

Self retired

Bastrop, TX

Vote no on HB 3225

As written, the bill could force libraries to ban the King James Bible, the dictionary, and countless works of literature. And no matter what, it will make public libraries spend time and money they don't have, all to conduct unnecessary material reviews and make it harder for kids to use the library.

The bill will have unintended consequences like barring minors from libraries and removing books of literary (Great Gatsby), educational, and religious value

The bill is likely unconstitutional, unduly restricting the rights of adults as well as older minors.

Tracy Shannon

SELF

Kingwood, TX

I support HB 3225. Parents have a reasonable expectation that their child will not encounter sexually explicit material in the course of the school day and that includes library resources that a child may choose to check out or read in the library. Once a child has seen sexually explicit or sexually graphic content, it is too late; the parental authority to direct the moral upbringing of the child has been undermined. Children deserve safeguarding. Parents have a right to review human sexuality instruction and opt-out their children out of those lessons, but for some reason our state allows children to consume content that explains all manners of sex acts, kinks, and fetishistic behaviors. This does not contribute to academic success. Scandalizing children with sexual content, sexual violence, stories of rape, child sexual assault, improper relationships between teachers and students is not acceptable reading material for our schools. It is time to take the school libraries back from the secular humanists and Marxist organizations like the Texas Library Association and American Library Association and protect children. There is no reason to expose children to sexually explicit materials.

Mag Franzoni

Self

Spring, TX

Parents - not the government - should determine what books are and are not appropriate for their own children to read.

Alena Keene

Self, Parent, and Educator

Fort Worth, TX

I oppose HB3225 not only because it violates First Amendment rights that apply to children and adults alike, but also because it violates parental rights and puts the burden and control of parental decisions on librarians and the government. Parents need to take personal responsibility for limiting what their children read or watch; Not librarians, not the Texas Government. If a parent is worried about what their child/teen reads or watches, then that parent needs to be present with their child to monitor what their child reads, watches, or borrows from the library. If a parent doesn't want their child to read things at a library then that parent should stay by their child's side when they are browsing books at the library. If parents decide to give their child/teen the freedom to read whatever they want at the library then those parents shouldn't be penalized because other parents don't want to put in the time, effort, and inconvenience that comes with accompanying and monitoring their children to restrict what they read.

For years, we have been told that books being removed from public school libraries and classrooms, are not book bans, because parents and students can find those books at their local public library. Now, this bill is proposing to restrict our kids' access to books in our local public libraries, too. As the bill is written, there is not even an option for parents to opt out of the restricted access for their own children. Parents- not the government- should determine what books are and are not appropriate for their own children to read. Please protect Texas parent's rights and children's right to read, and vote "no" on HB3225."

If you are determined to pass a law that appeases parents who want to restrict what their children read but don't want to put in the time and effort of accompanying and monitoring their children at public library, then write a law that lets those parents put restrictions on what their own children can borrow from the library or it sends the parents a receipt of what their kids borrow from the public library.

But, really, please save our tax dollars from the lawsuits that you know will be filed against this bill if it were to become law. You know this bill reeks of government overreach and that there are more important issues that could be addressed that would actually help the health and wellbeing of children. Let's use taxpayer dollars to address child poverty, child nutrition, child healthcare, air/water quality, housing, and public education.

Teresa Taylor

Self

Sachse, TX

I oppose HB 3225. We need to keep public libraries free for all to access. It is up to the parent to decide what their child has access to, not the government.

Jennifer Hill

Self, librarian

Pearland, TX

This would be the death knell for many libraries whose buildings are not equipped to restrict library users under 18 from areas with books aimed at adults. It's physically impossible and financially ruinous. It also greatly infringes on the parental rights of parents who do want their children to be able to access factual information about human sexuality, which is a valid field of knowledge and a reasonable topic to want to understand.

Stina Leicht

self/author

Austin, TX

This is regarding HB 3225 by Alders.

I strongly object to the removal of books, media, and other materials from Public Libraries. First, historically no one has ever been able to effectively define the word “pornography” when it comes to these bans. It’s an arbitrary word that inevitably gets applied arbitrarily to works. Such actions are imprecise and inefficient. Second, book bans—even if they were genuinely, sincerely, enacted and not a cynical, manipulative attempt to promote the personal beliefs of a select few—do not protect kids. Kids are determined beings, especially teens. Ask anyone who has known a teen. So, honestly, this piece of legislation protects no one. What it does do is a great deal of harm to the community at large, education in general, and the moral character of Americans in specific. Anyone who knows anything about the 1930s understands that the singular event that marked the beginning of the Nazi regime was the book burnings in Berlin. It’s so famous that it’s featured in the movie Indiana Jones and the Holy Grail. Banning books is fascist. If parents wish to prevent their kids from reading something, they can do so. What parents can't do is prevent ALL kids and in this case, ADULTS, from accessing certain books. That’s unlawful censorship. As an author, I firmly believe in the first amendment. Adults have a right to read what they want. As a citizen and an anti-authoritarian, I believe this attempt to unjustly control Public Libraries is profoundly immoral.

Anna Caffry

Self

Grand Prairie, TX

I strongly oppose this bill. As a mother I want my children to have the ability to explore literature without being subjected the whims of censors who share different parenting values from me

Kaybee Brookins

self - artist

Austin, TX

This bill is a waste of my taxpayer dollars and is so broad that it cannot be effectively enforced.

Kayla Holland

Self

Abilene, TX

I am writing today to urge you to strongly oppose Texas HB3225, which will be presented before your State Affairs committee on April 14, 2025. This bill is problematic because it attacks access to books in public libraries. HB3225 forbids municipal public libraries from allowing anyone under 18 to access “sexually explicit” materials without clearly defining "sexually explicit."

In order to comply with this vague legislation, libraries would have to restrict anyone under 18 to children’s/teen/YA sections—they could not be allowed into the library’s sections for the general (adult) public, where they might encounter “sexually explicit” books. Second, it would restrict the books that can be made available in those children’s/teen/YA sections. No sex-ed books, no descriptions of “sexual contact” in YA novels meant for older teens. Art books would be at risk, as would innocent books like Eric Carle’s Draw Me a Star and Maurice Sendak’s In the Night Kitchen.

Additionally, small and rural libraries that do not have separate areas for children, teens, and adult library materials would not be able to properly serve the needs of all community members under this bill. I strongly urge you to vote against HB3225 and to protect my First Amendment freedom to access information.

Krystal Wyatt-Baxter

Self, librarian

Austin, TX

I'm writing as a parent and a librarian to oppose HB 3225. Please let librarians, who are professionals, do their jobs. "Sexually explicit materials" is vague, and is likely to result in health-related and other developmentally appropriate materials being removed from youth collections. Furthermore, the bill add written would be difficult for librarians to enforce without restricting minors to the youth section of libraries. This places an undue burden, if not impossibility, on small rural libraries. This bill is not addressing a problem that exists and I very much hope you do not pass it.

Parth Soni

Self

Irving, TX

Oppose

Susan Studebaker

Self

Crockett, TX

I oppose HB 3225 because I do not see an explanation of "sexually explicit". This could mean anything from a text that mentions sexually transmitted infections or even of the reproductive system to pornography films. There are sexual references in many well-known novels of literary significance. The second reason that I oppose this bill is that setting up a section of the library or policing it might not even be possible in a small library, such as those in a rural community. And third, even if you could get a consensus about your definition of sexually explicit, I understand that this bill does not give the parents opt-in or opt-out options so I am assuming there is no parent choice involved. Kids are watching explicit sex on television and hearing about it on radios. I was required to read a number of books while in school and I am appalled at how many have been banned from school libraries. I would expect public libraries to be different. (By the way, you can't legislate morality.)

Michelle Ekrut, Mrs.

self, writer, mom

Allen, TX

Good morning, I grew up in libraries. Libraries were always my favorite place. I went on to become a librarian until my son was born, and then I raised him to love libraries as well. From a young age, I taught him how to approach a librarian respectfully and ask for help finding what he wanted. I taught him to not fear these adults and to use his voice. I taught him research skills and how books can teach us about ourselves and others. Now that he is older, I don't get to read to him every night. Middle schoolers are too busy for that. But he still loves to read. He reads any genre and anything he can. And we have some of the most amazing discussions about what he has read. Books have taught him empathy and compassion. They have taught him to see others with curiosity, not fear. They have brought him solace when he is sad. When he was diagnosed with Type 1 diabetes 6 years ago, he looked to books to see himself in the characters. And when we couldn't find a middle grade novel about a boy with type 1 (there are several with girls as the main character), I decided to write it myself. All of this to say that books have been foundational to both my son and I and have brought us so much joy, but also taught us so much. Also, as a former librarian, I was trained in the curation of materials and how to develop a collection that can serve a diverse community. Libraries are integral to a functioning democratic society, and the freedom of information is an essential to ensure we have an educated public. This is why I am horrified that you are proposing a bill that will limit the ability for public libraries to provide materials and information to their constituents. You have argued these are not book bans, and placed restrictions on schools. You have said these are not book bans because you can still go to a public library. If you start to limit access to information in a public library, your argument falls apart. This bill defines sexually explicit too broadly, actually it defines it not at all. And this leave the interpretation in the hands of those agents least likely to understand the nuance of books, not those trained in evaluating books and placing them in the right collections, but in the hands of those with an axe to grind. Those who want to limit the rights of our children. This bill could make it impossible for a teen to check out *The Great Gatsby*, or *Slaughterhouse 5*, both essential books in my own high school curriculum. Preteens would not be able to learn about puberty, if this is defined broadly. And parents would not have the right to give their kids access to these books when they can't even get them from a public library. Are we to be required to purchase everything we want to read in this day in age? That seems absurd. Please oppose HB 3225. The freedom of our democracy depends on freedom to information. And that is your job, to defend democracy. This is government overreach, and you know it.

Patricia Ortega
Self
Flower Mound, TX

Either we have parental rights to determine what our children have access to at parent determined age and ability appropriate levels, or you take away our rights to guide and assist our own families on what and when books are age appropriate.

I am asking you to oppose Texas HB3225, which will be presented before your State Affairs committee on April 14, 2025. This bill is problematic because it attacks access to books in public libraries. HB3225 forbids municipal public libraries from allowing anyone under 18 to access "sexually explicit" materials without clearly defining "sexually explicit."

In order to comply with this nebulous legislation, libraries would have to restrict anyone under 18 to children's/teen/YA sections—they could not be allowed into the library's sections for the general (adult) public. Additionally, it would restrict available books in the children's/teen/YA sections. No YA novels meant for older teens which might contain the undefined "explicit" material. Art books would be at risk, as would innocent books like Eric Carle's Draw Me a Star and Maurice Sendak's In the Night Kitchen.

Furthermore, small and rural libraries that do not have separate areas for children, teens, and adult library materials would not be able to properly serve the needs of all community members under this bill. I strongly urge you to vote against HB3225 and to protect the First Amendment freedom to access information. This bill undermines the role of parents, educators and librarians.

Thank you.

Peggy Thigpen
self
Jacksonville, TX

I am opposed to limiting books availability to children by someone other a parent.

Jan Overton
Voter
Rianoke, TX

No to book Bans. Freedom to read is a civic duty and if a parent or guardian does not wish a child of theirs to read - it is up to THAT parent to decide for their own children, not another's. I do not support this and hope that common sense prevails.

Holly Gorman
Self, Texas Parent
AUSTIN, TX

I urge you to reject censorship and vote NO on HB 3225.

When I was a teenager, I spent hours in my local public library. I not only checked out stacks of books every week, I also got my first job working there, reshelving books for minimum wage. And yes, occasionally the books I checked out or shelved contained "sexually explicit" content. What did my parents do in those situations? We had conversations about how to have sex safely, consensually, and in line with our family's ethical standards. In short: they acted like parents.

Now that I myself am a parent, I want my kids to have the same opportunities to access all parts of our local public library. I want them to be able to read books that stretch their imaginations and introduce them to new ideas. And when they come across content that makes them uncomfortable, I'll be there, in my role as a parent and guide, to talk to them about it.

HB 3225 takes away my rights as a parent to allow my children to explore new ideas. Parents, not the government, should determine what books are and are not appropriate for their own children. Those parents who wish their children to avoid seeing certain books at the library already have options: they can opt not to get their child a library card; they can opt to approve any books that their child checks out. In short, they can do their jobs as parents without infringing on my own rights to parent as I deem appropriate.

Sarah Bates
self/retired
Houston, TX

There are several things wrong with this bill. First, it subverts parental rights. Libraries do not serve in loco parentis. It is up to parents to supervise their children's reading. If I want my child to have access to a book in the library, no law should deny that to us. Secondly, denying young people the right to use the adult section, which is what the result of this bill would be, keeps a wealth of information from them. I spent many hours in the adult section of my public library researching reports, finding authors recommended to me by my parents, and expanding my knowledge beyond what was available in the children's section. Third, obscene materials are already covered by law. The phrase "sexually explicit" is vague and undefined - very much open to interpretation by book banners. Fourth, this bill assumes that both authors and library staff are in league to "corrupt" our children. As a former librarian, I can testify that all authors and library staff want to do is to give kids the tools to understand and survive in the world, in cooperation with their parents. Do not forward this bill.

Jennifer Pope, CMSgt, USAF (Retired)
Self/Retired
Hawkins, TX

I strongly support HB 3225. Our public libraries should be safe environments for children, including teens, free from sexually explicit material. This bill provides clear standards and accountability, ensuring taxpayer dollars aren't funding inappropriate content for minors. Please vote YES on HB 3225 and help make Texas libraries family-friendly.

Jennifer J. Pope

LaNell Miller
self minister
Texarkana, TX

I strongly support HB 3225. Our public libraries should be safe environments for children, including teens, free from sexually explicit material. This bill provides clear standards and accountability, ensuring taxpayer dollars aren't funding inappropriate content for minors. Please vote YES on HB 3225 and help make Texas libraries family-friendly.

Barbara Caldwell
Self
Bastrop, TX

I am 100% in favor of this bill protecting our children & grandchildren against sexually explicit material in libraries!

Julie Croy, Mrs
self
China Spring, TX
Support

Charley Rejsek

self

Austin, TX

I oppose HB 3225. And I am writing today to urge you to strongly oppose Texas HB3225 too. This bill is problematic because it attacks access to books in public libraries. HB3225 forbids municipal public libraries from allowing anyone under 18 to access “sexually explicit” materials without clearly defining “sexually explicit.”

In order to comply with this vague legislation, libraries would have to restrict anyone under 18 to children’s/teen/YA sections—they could not be allowed into the library’s sections for the general (adult) public, where they might encounter “sexually explicit” books. Second, it would restrict the books that can be made available in those children’s/teen/YA sections. No sex-ed books, no descriptions of “sexual contact” in YA novels meant for older teens. Art books would be at risk, as would innocent books like Eric Carle’s Draw Me a Star and Maurice Sendak’s In the Night Kitchen.

Additionally, small and rural libraries that do not have separate areas for children, teens, and adult library materials would not be able to properly serve the needs of all community members under this bill. I strongly urge you to vote against HB3225 and to protect my First Amendment freedom to access information.

Amy Tanguay

Self, HR professional

Sugar Land, TX

This is a ridiculous, unenforceable act (a minor can “access” ANY part of a library, and should be able to anyway) that is ripe for abuse (I think we all know that some people who are okay with a book like the Bible that contains a whole lot of rape, foreskin theft, polygamy, the Song of Solomon, etc but will come after a book like where two penguins don’t copulate but do take care of an egg/chick together). The unenforceability alone is enough reason to kill this bill. If parents don’t like what their kids might find, it’s on them to be responsible for their kids. They shouldn’t dictate what my family can read.

But more importantly, this bill should not be passed because it is an attack on free speech, on parents’ and children’s rights, on learning, and on the public good.

I hear complaints about abandoning great western traditions, but this law would make it harder for youths to read the great authors of England or America. This law would indicate that a fifteen year old checking out most Shakespeare plays could get a library fined and deprived of funding if someone chose to complain about it, to say nothing of Chaucer. And don’t get me started on how this would make it harder for kids to read Melville or Whitman. Is that really part of the goal?

But it also goes against parents’ rights to let their children go to the library and check out books they want or need to read, including ones that are completely age appropriate. What if I want my ten year old to be able to check out a book about puberty when he’s ten or eleven, so that when he’s thirteen or fourteen, he has an idea of what the changes in his body mean and how that may add to his moral responsibilities as he continues to grow into an adult? I don’t want to have to check it out FOR him and make him feel embarrassed for being curious about and ignorant of a totally normal thing that I prefer he not learn about on reddit. But in this hypothetical situation, my parental right to encourage my child’s curiosity and independence would be jeopardized if some other adult is pathetically scandalized by a diagram of the human reproductive systems or a written explanation of what nocturnal emissions are.

The loose definitions of sexual content, the impossibility of enforcing “access” without simply removing books from the library, and the selective exemption of religious (which, let’s be frank, implicitly means Christian - especially Evangelical Christian - texts) indicate that either the authors of the bill intend to enable attacks against libraries and the free flow of information and literacy, or simply do not care about the effects of this bill. This is censorship and an invitation to small mindedness that would ultimately do more to stunt minors’ intellectual and emotional growth than protect them. It’s constitutionally dubious, morally outrageous, and logistically dumb.

Don’t waste Texas’ time and resources with this culture war nonsense.

April Wilson

Self

Denton, TX

Vote yes! We need to protect our children!

Jane Aguirre

Self, Retired

TEMPLE, TX

Sexually explicit books, as defined in Penal Code Section 43.25

Sexual Performance by a Child, do not belong in the Children's section of public libraries. Apparently common sense has to be encouraged, with standards set by the Texas legislature. Please instruct our public libraries to adhere to statutory standards. Make it a workable solution and not something that costs taxpayers a lot of money. It may help Support library administrators and librarians to have a refresher course in the applicable law.

Megan Medina

Self

Fort Worth, TX

I am writing to urge the committee not to pass this bill. We have been told before that materials being removed from public schools is not book banning because those materials are still accessible to the public through public libraries. That was a lie, as you are now aiming to ban books from public libraries as well. It is the responsibility and the right of parents to decide what is appropriate for their child to see, not the government. This bill would limit access to individuals like myself to materials that we have the right to read should we so wish. This bill also fails to properly define what it means by "Sexually explicit", and this broad definition would lead to books such as "The Night Kitchen by Maurice Sendak" and "The Great Gatsby by F Scott Fitzgerald", and many other innocent and important materials being made inaccessible. Smaller libraries, like the ones myself and many other Americans access, would not have the space or resources to comply with this bill, leading to materials defined as "sexually explicit" being made inaccessible to many communities of all ages.

If you truly care about the safety of children, you would be targeting the laws that allow for child marriage in this state, including the marriage of grown adults to children. I have not once seen a bill targeting this issue which is very prevalent in this state, which leads me to believe that this is not about protecting children, but about controlling what the individual person can do.

It is the right and responsibility of parents to decide what their children see. Protect parents rights, protect individual rights, VOTE AGAINST HB 3225.

Chuck McCants

Self, Writer

Bedford, TX

I think parents should be in charge of judging what's too much for their child instead of the government; plain and simple. My parents were very aware of what media I was consuming, from books, to movies, to music, and were more than capable of determining which things were too inappropriate for me. And I trust other parents -- my neighbors and fellow Texans -- to determine the same for their children. 'Sexually explicit' is a vague term that can mean wildly different things depending on who you ask. Gratuitous depictions of sex are inappropriate for children to view, but some parents would find a kiss scene to be intense and explicit for their children. Other parents would be just fine letting their children watch 'Titanic', with the 'paint me like one of your french girls' scene included. And more parents still may allow their children to engage with more intense written material, and that is entirely within their rights as parents. Having access to ""adult"" materials at the library is also not necessarily detrimental to children. There are sex ed books at the library, and books that explain inappropriate touching, and books about puberty. These are books that parents may be uncomfortable for their children to engage with, but they have helped children more than they've hurt them. Knowledge, especially the type that can help children recognize abuse, is priceless and can mean the difference between dealing with pain and suffering or living a safe and comfortable life. And all children deserve a safe and comfortable life. I know protecting children is a thing we all find important, but the library is one of the safest places a child can be. They can safely and comfortably engage with difficult topics, because the library is a place where they can answer and address any questions that come up. It's a place filled with employees -- librarians -- who are dedicated to fostering learning and curiosity in all of their patrons. And that's what children, and all of us, need; a safe space to explore even the darkest parts of humanity, without judgement, and with the ability to leave whenever it gets too much. What's being proposed is not only the criminalization of a safe space but also an infringement of our curiosities, our agency, and our freedoms. I fully disagree with HB 3225 and believe that parents and the children, themselves, should be allowed to choose the content they are comfortable with.

Regina Chavez Muir

Self

El Paso, TX

This bill is a bill born of ignorance. Libraries provide an invaluable service and prohibiting access to materials that are deemed sexually explicit by a group of people who haven't even read the books is ridiculous. We got bills in Texas lowering the age to buy firearms and you want to raise the age to check out books? This is a waste of time and energy. Get educated, parents should educate themselves, and then make choices for their children. I suggest visiting the local library and accessing materials to help the House learn about critical thinking on this matter or better yet, just to pick up a hobby and stop wasting time on legislation that aims to hurt education and public services.

Mei Ling Isaacs

Self

Austin, TX

I am against HB 3225. As a former elementary school teacher with a specialization in teaching reading access to the library for all ages is incredibly important to learning to read. Bills like this limit access and make it impossible for underfunded libraries to provide services for everyone. We already have a literacy problem in this country. This law has the potential of adding to that by having a vague law on the books that could potentially result in limiting public library to adults only. Parents already have the ability to limit access we do not need this law.

Elizabeth Walters

Self/student

Fort Worth, TX

This bill is problematic because it attacks access to books in public libraries. HB3225 forbids municipal public libraries from allowing anyone under 18 to access “sexually explicit” materials without clearly defining “sexually explicit.”

In order to comply with this vague legislation, libraries would have to restrict anyone under 18 to children’s/teen/YA sections—they could not be allowed into the library’s sections for the general (adult) public, where they might encounter “sexually explicit” books. Second, it would restrict the books that can be made available in those children’s/teen/YA sections. No sex-ed books, no descriptions of “sexual contact” in YA novels meant for older teens. Art books would be at risk, as would innocent books like Eric Carle’s *Draw Me a Star* and Maurice Sendak’s *In the Night Kitchen*.

Additionally, small and rural libraries that do not have separate areas for children, teens, and adult library materials would not be able to properly serve the needs of all community members under this bill. I strongly urge you to vote against HB3225 and to protect my First Amendment freedom to access information.

Tanya Pinedo

Librarian

San Antonio, TX

Please, please, please, stop this bill! As an elementary librarian, I do not purchase or consider purchasing inappropriate material for students. I have a Masters Degree where I learned how to review materials to purchase, how to weed, or remove materials that are dated and politically inappropriate over time due to changes in vocabulary. Let librarians do the jobs we are trained for without putting an unnecessary target on our backs. School Districts have a review process in place if a parent has a concern that we will follow. Let us do our job in peace.

Tara Haelle

Self, author and journalist

Bedford, TX

Like many Americans and Texans, I strongly believe in freedom and in the right to the pursuit of happiness, and for me, both of those involve the pursuit of knowledge. Everyone has the right to read and learn, both fiction and nonfiction, even in areas that others lack interest in or do not believe appropriate for themselves. I also believe in parents' rights -- the right of the parent to decide what they want their child exposed to and when. This does not mean, however, that I think parents should be restricting what materials are available to minors in schools or public libraries. In fact, I believe the opposite. I believe schools and libraries should have the broadest range of available materials they can afford to offer, including materials that some may find objectionable because of sexual or intimate content, and it is the parents -- not the state -- who should determine whether they believe their child should have access to these materials. I respect the right of other parents to shield their children from certain topics until the age that they feel is appropriate for their child. I also expect others to respect my right to expose my children to certain topics when I feel it's appropriate, regardless of whether that's earlier or later than when other parents do. I can only exercise this right if the materials are available in the public library for my children to access with my permission. HB3225 would take away that right, which is anti-freedom and anti-parents' rights. HB3225 is also vague about what constitutes objectionable content. What one parent or elected officials finds objectionable may be different from what I find objectionable. We should all have the right to access the material and to allow our children to do so while we individually decide what's objectionable for our family. Having others decide that for us is again a restriction of our rights and our freedom to raise our children the way we see fit. More broadly speaking, as a journalist and author and former high school teacher, I have long believed that censoring or restricting books is an assault on our freedom and our right to seek out knowledge, regardless of how others might perceive or judge that knowledge. When we look at history's examples, it has never -- never, ever, ever -- been the "good guys" banning books, pamphlets, or newspapers. Only controlling regimes who want to restrict people's freedoms have ever banned books, and that doesn't sound like the Texas my representatives have promised to represent. I ask the legislators to vote against HB 3225, a vote in favor of freedom and parents' rights.

Rhiannon Vass

Self / Librarian

Baytown, TX

As a librarian in Texas, I am writing to share my concerns regarding HB 3225. This bill seeks to prohibit minors from accessing sexually explicit materials in municipal public libraries by establishing access restrictions, age verification measures, collection review procedures, and enforcement mechanisms including substantial civil penalties and loss of funding.

The definition of sexually explicit material is very vague and could result in the restriction or removal of minor's access to age-appropriate materials, such as classic literature and health resources.

It is unclear how an age verification process would work in practice. Implementing any type of ID checking process would require significant staff and financial resources.

Most libraries do not have children's or teen areas that are physically separate from the adult sections. Public libraries do not operate in loco parentis. It is parents' responsibility to ensure that their minor children are not accessing adult material.

If passed, this bill would result in significantly increased costs to municipalities. The unfunded mandates will force public libraries to reduce the essential programs and services they provide to their communities so that resources may be redirected to checking IDs and reviewing library materials.

Please do not limit our public libraries' ability to serve their communities with costly and burdensome requirements.

Christine Yates

Self/parent/8th gen Texan

Conroe, TX

While we can all agree that of course children should be reading age appropriate material, this bill is nothing more than a performance and a further attack on libraries and literature. Many bills this session have been propped up with the tagline "giving power back to the parents" while undermining parents at every turn. If I want to grab a book from the library then I shouldn't be discouraged from doing so with my kids in tow. Not only that, different people have different ideas on what is or is not appropriate material. Librarians shouldn't be at risk for fines or further punishment for doing their jobs. As always, if you do not want to read a certain book then you are not required to check it out and read it. Let people enjoy reading whatever they want! Keep the puritanical extremism out of public policy and let people decide how they'd like to raise their children.

Sarah Evascu
self, homeschool parent
Austin, TX

Please vote against HB 3225. I understand it seems like a good bill on the surface -- what parent would want to expose a minor to truly explicit material? Unfortunately, this bill violates parental rights to educate their children and choose their reading material. This bill violates the First Amendment of the US Constitution. This bill defines "sexually explicit" so vaguely, so broadly, that it had to include a provision to exempt the Bible and other religious materials. If the bill's authors and cosigners actually visited libraries daily, or weekly, as we do, they would see that "sexually explicit" materials are NOT being accessed by roving unparented minors. Rather, they might see homeschoolers researching complicated history in the general collection. They might see teenagers under 18 reading a wide variety of literature. In our thousands of hours in Texas public libraries, our family cannot recall ever seeing inappropriate content or inappropriate access. Texas librarians are doing their jobs well. We don't need to police them and parents. Moreover, most library branch spaces were not designed to physically segregate child/juvenile/YA sections from the general collection. The online catalogs and search functions are not segregated. This bill doesn't only restrict minors from accessing certain books in their "assigned" physical section and in catalogs. In many cases, across the state, it would prevent minors from accessing entire branches. And there is no legal or policy mechanism for parents to "opt out" their children in order to maintain full access to a given branch. There is also no option to opt out teen minors who are taking dual enrolled or other classes at community colleges -- students who need to be able to research and write about "general collection" type of content when studying history, or literature. Assuming this bill passes, the book audits, physical segregation, and building redesigns could cost thousands of labor hours and millions of dollars state-wide. These expenses are for nothing because regular library users appreciate the collections as-is, use the collections as-is, understand how to manage their children in public spaces, and are fully aware that all forms of "sexually explicit" material are already available on the Internet. HB 3225 is effectively a broad book banning bill, an anti-parents rights bill, an anti-homeschooling bill, an anti-free speech bill, an anti-dual enrolled community college bill, an anti-public good bill, and a total waste of taxpayer dollars, initiated and supported by legislators who are neither widely read nor using public libraries.

Jamie Whitney
Self (parent and attorney)
Austin, TX

Fahrenheit 451 is supposed to be fiction.

In all seriousness, as a parent I want my children to read books that challenge them. I want them to talk with me about what they are reading. We make our decisions about their content consumption as a family. That's my job, not the state's. I do NOT want my state representatives dictating what is available for my kids to access from our neighborhood library. I don't want my children's access to ideas to be limited by the most restrictive views in my community. Instead, what's accessible should be determined by the broadest possible measure, so that parents have choices about how to filter that available content appropriately for their unique families. Please do not vote to censor books in Texas libraries or penalize librarians who work so hard to help our kids connect with reading.

Dan Jackson
Self, Attorney
San Antonio, TX

Public libraries are the lifeblood of our democracy. I stand in staunch opposition to HB 3225, as well as any other legislation that could have the effect of restricting library access to the Texas citizenry. Now, more than ever, Texas needs a community that is well-read, well-informed, and well-adjusted to the modern world. Please join me in opposing this bill as written and preserving rights of library access to millions of Texans, including our future leaders.

Lisa Boehnke, Dr
self
Austin, TX

I could write an essay on what is wrong with this bill - not that you would read it. If the sole purpose of this bill is to prevent minors from exposure to sexually explicit material, how does it prevent access to readily, easily available phone & online sources ? Their main source - for which they don't even need to leave their house. IT DOES NOTHING. House bill 710 already restricts minors access to such material. Libraries are already under attack with budget cuts & laws attempting to censor readers. Libraries provide many services to their local community but they should NOT have to be responsible & liable for policing readers. This bill would also restrict parents from deciding what is best for their child. Who decides what is "sexually explicit"? what material minors should not have access? The Bible talks about rape, incest & prostitution & was removed from libraries in Florida for this reason.

The written word falls under our Constitutionally protected Freedom of Speech. This bill is another step along the pathway to censoring & banning books - that "someone" doesn't like, under the guise of protecting the children. That would force libraries to police & be liable for their readers. While deep pocketed campaign donors may support such a bill the independent, intelligent, freedom loving, book reading Texans do NOT.

Vote NO on this bill.

To quote Thomas Jefferson, " I can not live without books". May I suggest Orwell's "1984" and Bradbury's " Fahrenheit 451", to start. PS, neither have sexually explicit material.

Ariel Heiblum, Mr.
Self - Video Producer
Houston, TX

I oppose HB3225.

Public libraries are valuable resources for our community, including our children. Access to knowledge should not be limited, and this bill is far too over-reaching. Parents and librarians are already responsible for meeting the needs of children and getting age-appropriate content for them. The government should not get involved.

Chris Donofrio
Self
The Woodlands, TX

I STRONGLY OPPOSE HB 3225.

It does not address what Representative Alders states on p1, L1-3:

“AN ACT relating to the prohibition to access by minors to sexually explicit materials in municipal public library collections.”

That is because HB 3225’s definition of sexually explicit material is extremely narrow (p1, L25 to p2, L3):

“(5) “Sexually explicit material” means any communication, language, or material, including a written description, illustration, photographic image, video image, or audio file, that describes, depicts, or portrays sexual conduct, as defined by Section 43.25, Penal Code.”

Section 43.25, Penal Code, is titled “SEXUAL PERFORMANCE BY A CHILD.” It is thorough, to the point, and properly focused on child pornography. Because this portion of the Penal Code deals with children performing sexual acts, it is not appropriate as the legal basis of HB 3225’s intended purpose.

I’m also very troubled by the fact that HB 3225 “does not apply to religious materials.” (p2, L22).

Please kill HB 3225 in Committee.

Respectfully, Chris J Donofrio

Erica Richardson

Self

Benbrook, TX

I am writing to you today as the mother of three teenagers, one is serving his first year in the Navy, one is preparing to graduate high school in May and start her college journey, and my last one will be a Senior next year.

I am AGAINST HB3225 that would restrict access to any materials in a public library.

I grew up in a household in a very small town in west Texas in the 80s. There weren't many restrictions on anything at the time - I can still remember when seat belts were introduced, and the grumbling that came from my dad about being told he had to wear them, while I was in the backseat eating my candy cigarettes and pretending to blow smoke on my younger sister.

With that mindset, books were my lifeline. I read to experience the world, to escape the world, and to beat the person that would become my best friend in AR points. Spoiler alert - I did win, only by reading *Gone With The Wind* in 6th grade. Yes, you read that right. There were no restrictions on what I read by my parents, I would savor every *Babysitter Club* book along with the *Wind in the Willow*, *Little Women*, and *The Hobbit*. Walking into my county library, seeing all the books that represented so many stories and lives enthralled and enchanted me. I did make the mistake of trying to read a Stephen King book in 7th grade, but I consider that a life lesson.

With my hodgepodge and nomadic reading background, I chose as a parent not to limit my kids and their choices of books. My youngest is dyslexic, so he loved the graphic novels, where he could see the story while reading it.

That is my point. I made that choice as a parent, that choice wasn't made for me.

Putting any restrictions on what collections public libraries hold will be devastating, not only for the libraries themselves in trying to administer such restrictions, but to the general magic of reading. Finding that perfect book in the sea of so many books that is just waiting for you to pick it up, or hearing it read by the librarian and then letting your child find a similar book, is priceless.

I want libraries to continue to be magical places, full of imagination and colors, and a variety of voices and stories. I do not want interference in telling me or my child or my future grandchildren what we can check out from our community public library.

I grew up, graduated from college, and received my graduate degree by 25. I am happily employed, and I choose to spend my adult life around books. That freedom to select my books, the magic of stories, has stayed with me and will continue to stay with me for the rest of my life. I get to decide when I am ready to pick up that Stephen King book, and if I want my kids to learn the same lesson.

Do not restrict access to books in a public library, whether it is a religion that isn't yours, a different sports team than your favorite, or because a book describes something vile - who really wants to eat green eggs and ham? Yuck.

Thank you for your time.

Jennifer Madrid, Ms.

self

Belton, TX

Dear State Affairs Committee Members,

Please vote HB 3225 out onto the floor for a vote by the full house. When do human beings usually become addicted to destructive pornography? Often when they are exposed in childhood. This addiction and the betrayal and often emotional abuse it leads to, negatively impacts not only marriages, but the children, the next generation in untold ways. Women and Children are trafficked due to the high demand for pornography and the money to be made off of their slavery and serial rape. Abortion becomes the solution to pregnancies that result... leading to further damage. There is almost nothing more destructive on the planet than what porn does to the human soul and to those around them, and again, the draw often begins when the person is exposed in childhood. I could go on for hours over all of the people I know personally who's lives have been upended, and after all of the research I've done over the years. Protect our vulnerable children, our families, and our society. The last place pornography should be found is in the children's section of our publicly-funded libraries. Thank you in advance for enacting this law that protects our children and society from tax-payer money going towards funding an addiction that is extremely destructive to many and incredibly difficult to overcome.

Alberto Mejia, Mr.

Self

Austin, TX

I urge the members of the house to vote no on HB 3225. As a young person raised in low income circumstances the library was an absolutely vital commons and place of learning for me. I'm now a father of a six-year-old boy who loves our neighborhood library here in the community of Dove springs. In our neighborhood library and the recreation center are the heartbeat of our community. The programming and management of our library serves our diverse community well. People of different ages, cultures, languages and beliefs are well served by our library and dedicated librarians. The librarians are especially dedicated and attentive to the needs and safety of young people who frequent the library every day of the week. With all due respect and with mutual concern for the protection of children, I do not trust in the integrity of the bill or its authors to define what is "sexually explicit" in a way that is unbiased scientific and accurate for all Texans and Texas libraries. I do not think our libraries need the government overreach exemplified in this bill interfering with library business. The outcomes for other states that have passed similar legislation have been clumsy, inefficient, ineffective, inconvenient, and invasive for library users of all ages. The passing of this bill also presents a mandate that punishes libraries for noncompliance, yet at the same time provides no funding that would support small urban or rural libraries to organize their materials and spaces in order to comply with the policy. Instead of protecting children, this Bill harms children by chilling and adding unnecessary barriers to literacy and reading. I ask the house members to also consider the harm that could be done to young people who are simply wanting to learn about their own biological development, reproductive health, sexual health if they are required to present identification to learn critical information about themselves. I ask the members of the house to picture themselves as a teenager being asked to provide identification to an unknown adult as you are trying to understand and take care your own body, or maybe seeking literary resources to understand sexual harm you may be experiencing. How would you feel in this case? Would you feel supported or safe? Or stigmatized and harassed?

I implore the house again to vote no on this bill and stand on the side of rationality, literacy and the sanctity of the library for all. I encourage the bill authors to find more practical, effective and less invasive ways to protect and educate children that do not infringe upon the dignity and expertise of our public servants and librarians and does not harm the civic and literary development of our children.

Linda Dennis, Ms.

Self - Social Worker

Wills Point, TX

I am for this bill to keep inappropriate literature and pornography from the eyes of our children??

Richie Grant
Arklatex Assessment
Texarkana, TX

I am strongly in SUPPORT of tjis Bill. It is common sense. Protect the children

Thomas Nixon
Self
Corpus Christi, TX

Any clinical psychologist or social worker familiar with child development will tell you there is a vast difference between a small child's understanding and a teenager's. To wave a broad brush over denying access to books that does not define a difference between "sexual content" for a first grader and a high school student disrespects the capacity of adolescents to comprehend and keep general natural knowledge of sex in perspective with parental guidance. It denies parents the option of defining which books their children should have access to. The fact that Biblical references to sexual content, which are usually more graphic than those in teen novels, are exempt from this broad definition of sexual content is hypocrisy and constitutes a violation of the First Amendment of the United States Constitution. If the content is to be banned from any books, it must also be banned from Biblical texts. Otherwise, this is not a bill about protecting children; it is a bill about indoctrinating Christianity, a First Amendment violation.

Karen Macias, Mrs
Self
Cibolo, TX

I support HB 3225. Thank you.

Toni Carter, Ms.
Mom's for Liberty
New Braunfels, TX

It is preposterous that society has arrived at this point. We are in a time where a book that is descriptive in telling an age group ranging from the age 8-17 is allowed to remain until a bill in the State House of Texas must pass to ensure this and other inappropriate books are removed promptly from the public libraries. I am running for a City Council seat in New Braunfels, Texas. I have heard this issue repeatedly and there is absolutely no excuse for these books to be in public libraries. Why on earth are they in kids sections. What I want to know, and I have asked constituents, what is your goal? What are you teaching an 8-17 year old? Why? Once and for all end this, there should be no debate. It is indefensible books such as "Let's Talk about it" sees the light of day as a publication. No place should exist for this and other similar inappropriate books should be blocked.

Amy Watterman
Self, librarian
Arlington, TX

I am a librarian in the State of Texas. I am AGAINST this bill. I am asking you to oppose HB3225 that will be heard by the State Affairs Committee on Monday. For years, we have been told that books being removed from public school libraries and classrooms, are not book bans, because parents and students can find those books at their local public library. Now, this bill is proposing to restrict our kids' access to books in our local public libraries, too. As the bill is written, there is not even an option for parents to opt out of the restricted access for their own children. Parents- not the government- should determine what books are and are not appropriate for their own children to read. Please protect Texas parent's rights, and vote "no" on HB3225. Thank you for supporting libraries in Texas.

Michele Kelk

Self

Keller, TX

I strongly support HB 3225. Our public libraries should be safe environments for children, including teens – free from sexually explicit material. This bill provides clear standards and accountability, ensuring taxpayer dollars aren't funding inappropriate content for minor children. Please vote YES on HB 3225 and help make Texas libraries family friendly.

Lisa Martinez

Self

College Station, TX

We oppose the prohibition of access to minors for any materials in our local libraries. Our librarians are skilled and educated to curate appropriately the literature, and children who are looking for specific subjects are filling a need. Libraries have been invaluable to our family, and I am really impressed by our own local libraries. Please vote down HB 3225.

Lori Carlson

Self

San Antonio, TX

I firmly believe that there should not be book bans. If a parent wants to keep their children from reading books, it is their sole responsibility and right to do so. It is not up to the government to decide what books myself or my children are allowed to read.

Jake Wilson

Self - CPA

Fort Worth, TX

I support HB 3225 relating to the prohibition of access by minors to sexually explicit materials in municipal public library collections; providing a civil penalty. Thank you to Representative Alders for authoring HB3225.

I also hope that the State Affairs Committee will very soon hold a hearing on HB1425 by Representative Spiller relating to a period of prayer and reading of the Bible or other religious text in public schools, subject to parental approval.

Thank You,

Jake Wilson

Fort Worth, TX

HD91 & SD9

Keith Dotson, Retired

Myself

Meniola, TX

strongly support HB 3225. Our public libraries should be safe environments for children, including teens, free from sexually explicit material. This bill provides clear standards and accountability, ensuring taxpayer dollars aren't funding inappropriate content for minors. Please vote YES on HB 3225 and help make Texas libraries family-friendly.

Jeanne Creel
Self/Retired Librarian and HS Teacher
El Paso, TX

No one has the right to censor people's reading material. The ONLY people who can censor their children's reading material are parents. And even then, once a child reaches 18, no one has the right to censor his or her reading choices. As a librarian and a high school teacher, we had procedures in place to restrict reading material as requested by the parents. But no one else had that authority. Why is Texas usurping parental rights? Texas claims to want to restore parental rights and authority relating to their children's education but HB 3225 has preempted that very authority. Please allow parents to opt in or out regarding their children's access to material. Please defend the freedom to read, which is as precious as the freedom of speech.

Davonne Lewis
Self
Austin, TX
Oppose

Jeanette Watson
Self. Retired teacher.
Cedar Creek, TX

As a member if the State House Affairs Committee your decision effects all of Texas. Vote YES to protect our children against sexual abuse in the form of explicit material in libraries, of all places ! I know you to be strong to stand up.to the 'woke' mob.

Keri Slater
Self
Austin, TX

I oppose 3225 because i support the professional judgment of professional librarians to decide what books should be in their library collections.

Gail Apple
Republicans Women of Greg County
Longview, TX

Thank you for supporting this.

Kandis Seaver
Self
Austin, TX

Librarians are educated experts in what is and is not appropriate content to be available in a public library and as a parent, it's up to me to determine what is appropriate for my child and no one else's. The legislature needs to be working on issues facing Texans, not censoring books.

Patricia Everett
Self, Library Assistant
Fort Worth, TX

Dear Members of the State Affairs Committee,

As a Texan, a library assistant, and a parent, I am writing to express my concerns about HB 3225. This bill is highly problematic and should not even be up for consideration. In a free society – which we supposedly still live in – it would bring about a level of censorship that is harmful and shameful. It would bring about stress and fear into a place that should feel safe and welcoming for the library workers and all their patrons. Furthermore, as a parent, I do not want the government to dictate what my child or any child can and cannot check out from the public library. There has been much fearmongering among individuals and groups about books they consider “sexually explicit.” Have they even read these books from cover to cover, or did they cherry-pick the passages? Have they even considered that many of our children in Texas have faced immense challenges and trauma in real life and how important it might be to have a book they can relate to and learn from? Have the book banners not taken into consideration that children have questions about their bodies and sexuality? And how exactly would “sexually explicit” be defined? Would a book with a photo of the statue of David be removed? Would some of the classics that they already read in school be unavailable? Would books about periods, sex, and puberty be unavailable? Would any book with an LGBTQ+ character be hidden? Would a high schooler really be limited to just books in a children's area? I know I want my child to have access to a wide variety of books that can entertain, challenge, and teach. If a caretaker wants to restrict what their child can and cannot read, then that is their prerogative, but do not go after libraries, the professionally curated collections, library workers, parents’ rights, and most of all our children’s rights. Books are not the problem, but banning books is. Stop the nonsense and vote no on HB 3225!

And I will end with this quote from author Laurie Halse Anderson: "Censoring books that deal with difficult, adolescent issues does not protect anybody. Quite the opposite. It leaves kids in the darkness and makes them vulnerable. Censorship is the child of fear and the father of ignorance."

Thank you for your time.

Jennifer Kranzman
-RETIRED
Longview, TX

I strongly support HB 3225. Our public libraries should be safe environments for children, including teens, free from sexually explicit material. This bill provides clear standards and accountability, ensuring taxpayer dollars aren’t funding inappropriate content for minors. Please vote YES on HB 3225 and help make Texas libraries family-friendly.

Richard Apple
Self
Longview, TX

Please vote “Yes” to pass this bill. Our children and grandchildren depend on us to protect and keep them safe from these predatory materials. Those who insist on pushing this on our children must be punished. We must have age appropriate reading materials that builds character and moral values. Thank you!

Angela Kelley
Self Retired Counselor
Palestine , TX 75802, TX

“I strongly support HB 3225. Our public libraries should be safe environments for children, including teens – free from sexually explicit material. This bill provides clear standards and accountability, ensuring taxpayer dollars aren’t funding inappropriate content for minor children. Please vote YES on HB 3225 and help make Texas libraries family friendly and not the arm of corporate pornography interests.

Linda Ricks
Self
Midlothian, TX
Dear Members,

I support this bill. Please vote it out of committee for a floor vote.

Thank you,
Linda Ricks

Cindy Fountain
TX Unitarian Universalist Justice Ministry/Member
Cleburne, TX

I urge the committee members to oppose this bill. This bill is a book ban, plain and simple. My faith means that my 12 year old can check out a book that reflects who they are. I as the parent will decide if the book contains "sexually explicit material." I pay the taxes for the library in my town, and I have the right to decide what my child checks out. This is more of the government minding people's business where it doesn't belong. Thank you.

Christina Drewry
self
Flint, TX

I am fully support HB 3225 by Representative Alders. Public Libraries should be safe places for minors to explore reading material. Our tax dollars should not fund sexually explicit material and pornography targeted at minors in our public libraries (or school libraries). Please vote yes on this legislation to stand in the gap for Texas kids and hold these public libraries accountable.

Emily Probasco
Self
Dallas, TX

I oppose this bill. Parents- not the government- should determine what books are and are not appropriate for their own children to read.

Francesca Wood, Mrs
Self
Fort Worth, TX

I oppose Texas House Bill 3225. We do not need the government telling us when and who can enter a library or what materials are appropriate for our children in a library. We can make that decision ourselves. Thank you.

Allison Craig, Dr.
self
Fort Worth, TX

I am a parent of two school age children in Fort Worth, Texas who love to read. For years, we have been told that books being removed from public school libraries and classrooms, are not book bans, because parents and students can find those books at their local public library. Now, this bill is proposing to restrict our kids' access to books in our local public libraries, too. As the bill is written, there is not even an option for parents to opt out of the restricted access for their own children. Parents- not the government- should determine what books are and are not appropriate for their own children to read. This bill should not become law.

Peggy Saint-Michel
Self/Retired School Librarian
Argyle, TX

HB 3225 is about a problem that doesn't exist and is a false claim that masks the fact that a minority of people want to ban books and define what is acceptable to control what everyone is allowed to read. Checking books out from public libraries isn't mandatory. No one has to enter a library if they don't want to. Parents and only parents should decide what their own children read. Parents aren't supposed to drop their children off at libraries unaccompanied by adults. I have first amendment rights to read what I want and this is just the first step toward censorship for adults. I carefully curated my son's reading materials and he curates materials for his daughters. Libraries are conscientious professionals. Even in school libraries no child was ever forced to read anything their family didn't approve. Reading lists offered alternatives and parents signed permission for them. Parents have always had the right to restrict reading and it was noted on their check out page. You're not safeguarding children. They've always had the option not to check out books. This bill is allowing a few people to force their beliefs on my grandchildren. I would never force their children to adhere to my beliefs. At the present time they can supervise what they're children check out just like all responsible parents do at this time. I didn't allow my son to check out books that weren't age appropriate but that's not the real issue here. Books being banned but these self appointed holier than thou people actually want to ban books about people of color, different religions and sexual orientations. My son read about LGBTQ people in his preteen and teens. It didn't turn him Gay. He's a good moral person who isn't threatened by people unlike him. Stop giving power to hateful, judgmental people. This isn't about libraries and books. It's about a few grabbing power over the many. It's unTexan, unAmerican and unconstitutional. Leave my family's First Amendment Rights alone. Nonreaders have always been protected from having to read. Leave us readers alone!

Erin Burns
Self
Lubbock, TX

Hello, 1. It's highly unlikely that any of these materials are "sexually explicit", just because they may be LGBTQIA+ in nature. 2. This amounts to a book ban on materials that the Texas legislators probably have never read, and considered censorship from the state. 3. Let librarians do their jobs. People should have access to age appropriate materials and this just amounts to another unnecessary book ban. Texas senators should speak to librarians on this matter, instead of listening to right-wingers who are more closely aligned with fascists who would keep people in ignorance about themselves and their bodies. I was 6 years old in Ohio and my mom bought an age appropriate book about sexual reproduction when she was pregnant in 1989 because at 6 years old, I kept having questions and she didn't want me and my sister growing up in ignorance. Texas legislature should not be making these kinds of decisions instead of parents. Further, as a librarian, I can tell you that the equating of LGBTQIA+ materials with "sexually explicit" materials is bullshit. There are plenty of materials that are age appropriate and can treat the subject matter with care, and librarians have masters degrees in how to serve the public and choose these kinds of materials for their communities. It is a disservice from the state legislature and a bullshit argument to assume that librarians do not know how to do their jobs or to equate materials that the Texas house deems "sexually explicit." Stop banning books. Stop accepting money from the Christian dominionists who are actually white Christian nationalists by another name. Stop being beholden to these people who understand nothing about being queer in a rural town. Stop banning books that people should have access to. If my kid wants one of those books from the library, they should be able to get one. It should not be the Texas legislature making those decisions, but the parents who go to the library with their children. Lastly there are already policies about how materials get added or removed from the shelves, so this law is unnecessary. As a Texan, I am disappointed that the Texas legislature feels so beholden to its white Christian nationalist overlords that it can't get out of its own way to allow for these materials to remain on the shelves. Again, it's highly unlikely that "sexually explicit" materials are on this list. It's probably a list developed from the stochastic terrorists and fascists who would keep people in ignorance about themselves or their bodies. Shame on the Texas legislature for even bringing this forward.

Terry Howlett
Self
Tyler, TX

"I strongly support HB 3225. I have personally seen the sexually explicit books in our Tyler Library. Our public libraries should be safe environments for children, including teens – free from sexually explicit material. This bill provides clear standards and accountability, ensuring taxpayer dollars aren't funding inappropriate content for minor children. Please vote YES on HB 3225 and help make Texas libraries family friendly."

Marilyn Harris

Self & spouse - retired

Sanger, TX

“We strongly support HB 3225 and cannot believe that sexually explicit material is even available in our public libraries for our children and teens and anyone else to see. We remember the days when Playboy magazine was kept out of sight and behind the checkout counter and only sold to adults. How have we fallen so far that this material is found in public libraries paid for with our tax dollars? It should only be available in XXX Adult book stores for SALE.

Our public libraries should be safe environments for ALL, especially children and teens. This bill provides clear standards and accountability, ensuring taxpayer dollars aren't funding inappropriate content for minor children. Please vote YES on HB 3225 and help make Texas libraries family friendly. Thank You.

Gayleen Rabakukk

self/author

Marble Falls, TX

Hi, my name is Gayleen Rabakukk. I volunteer at the Lago Vista Public Library and serve on the Friends of the Library Board there. I'd love to tell you more about our community and how our library helps people in lots of ways, but instead I need to talk with you about the implications of HB3225, how it robs Texans of their parental rights, and what it would do to our library if passed. The bill proposes limiting the access of people under 18 from books that contain sexually explicit materials – which may sound reasonable at first glance but would be nearly impossible to enforce at small libraries.

At the Lago Vista Public Library, we do have a children's section, and a young adult section, but they are in the same large area as the books written for adult readers – in some cases on the opposite side of the same shelving unit. And it's not at all uncommon for library patrons under 18 to access books from the adult section when they've exhausted the children's or young adult section while researching a topic, particularly if they're working on a school project or term paper. At Lago Vista, the only way to reasonably ensure children could not access books from the adult section would be to restrict their access to the library.

HB3225 also calls for a review of library collections to determine if items in the collection contain sexually explicit material. As of February 2025, the Lago Vista Library's physical collection contained more than 18,000 items including books, DVDs, and audiobooks. If our library staff spent only one hour reviewing each item, that would be 18,000 hours, which works out to 450 weeks if a full-time employee devoted all their working hours to the review, so they would finish in about eight and a half years. Luckily, our library employs three full-time staff members and one part-time employee. So, if they all devoted all their time to reviewing the collection, they might be finished in two years, but then they wouldn't have time to help the roughly 1700 patrons who visit the library each month to use the public computers, the wi-fi, or make copies (many of whom need assistance with those tasks), or organize programs, events and activities attended by about 250 patrons each month, not to mention checking out books.

So, back to the books – I happened to notice that “religious materials” are specifically exempted from this proposed bill. To me, that admits that although religious books, like the Bible, might contain sexually explicit material, but the bill's authors endorse that because presumably parents are aware of that material and have an opportunity to discuss it with their children. However, as the bill is written, there is not even an option for parents to opt out of the restricted access for their own children. Parents- not the government- should determine what books are and are not appropriate for their own children to read. Please protect Texas parents' rights, and vote "no" on HB3225.

John Quinn

Self

Brady, TX

For the bill

Erika Beck

Self

Austin, TX

I am writing to express my strong opposition to HB 3225. As a constituent and a parent, I am deeply concerned about the potential negative impact this bill would have on my family and our community.

Libraries play an essential role in the development of children. In an age where studies highlight the negative effects of excessive screen time, libraries provide a valuable resource for promoting reading and literacy. My own children benefit greatly from this. My 10-year-old daughter, an avid reader, has read over 50 chapter books this year, with the majority borrowed from our local library. The library is a place of discovery and fun for them.

HB 3225's broad restrictions could lead to children's library areas being severely limited or even closed off. In fact, libraries in Idaho have faced the situation where entire children's sections were closed. Because our library's children's area is not cordoned off, my children would likely face a complete ban. This would deprive them of a vital resource and a place they cherish.

While I could potentially pick up books for them, this would deny them the library experience – browsing shelves, discovering new authors, and participating in library programs. These experiences foster a love of reading and a connection to the community.

Furthermore, limiting access to libraries places a disproportionate burden on lower-income families. The cost of purchasing books can be prohibitive, and without the library, many children in our state would have limited access to reading materials. This will negatively impact literacy development and ultimately harm our state's education outcomes.

I urge you to consider the detrimental effects of HB 3225 on children and families in our community. I ask that you oppose this bill and support policies that promote literacy and access to information for all.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this important issue.

Laurie Thompson

Self

Amarillo, TX

My name is Laurie Thompson and I am representing myself and I am submitting public comment FOR HB 3225. Please protect our children and grandchildren from harmful access to the adult public materials. It is common sense safeguards. Thank you so much.

Tracy Pennington, Mrs.

Self; Pastor

Amarillo, TX

Vote FOR HB 3225

Bill Boroughs

Self retired

Amarillo, TX

For this bill to protect our children

Johanna Peyton

self

Austin, TX

Hello. My name is Johanna Peyton and I am writing to ask Representative Alders to oppose HB3225. I am a Christian with conservative values, mother of 3 minors and a writer for children. I believe in protecting our young people AND in the power of books. I believe libraries should be a place of freedom and access. Parents - not the government - should decide which books are and are not appropriate for their own children. Please protect Texas parents' rights and vote "no" on HB3225.

Erin Cotter, Dr.

self

Austin TX, TX

I do not support this bill. It's the job of parents--not librarians--to decide what sorts of materials their children do and do not engage with. This bill doesn't allow parents to opt out of what someone else defines as explicit. Furthermore, in general I oppose the gatekeeping of so-called sexually explicit materials for children. A crush isn't sexually explicit--but under this bill it seems very likely it will be. This bill is badly thought out and seems to be a thinly veiled attempt to strong-arm Texan children into reading exactly what this government wants them to read. That is not a symptom of a functional government that promotes freedom among its citizens and therefore I strongly oppose this bill.

Sandra Chesshir

Self

Troup, TX

As a retired school library administrator I am in favor of this bill. Protecting our children should be our number one priority. Public libraries have followed the TLA and ALA leftist agenda under the guise of "freedom to read". The most important thing to consider is age appropriate book selection. Don't select these sexually explicit books in the first place. Moving them to the adult section is a start but not the answer to the bigger problem. Please pass this bill for our children.

Respectfully,

Sandra Chesshir

MSLS

Learning Resource Specialist

Jennifer Laha

Self/SAHM

Conroe, TX

I am absolutely in support of this bill. It's time we stop allowing minors to easily access sexualized material within our public libraries. Libraries already separate books based on adult, fiction, biography, etc. so asking them to prohibit minors from accessing sexually explicit materials is no different. I want to be able to let my young child pick whatever book from the children's section without fear that some sicko decided to push sexual books in there (which has happened before). Texans are conservative and respect family values. Our public libraries should reflect the same. Stop trying to sexualize minors and protect our children!

Frannie Sanchez

Self

Austin, TX

I am writing in string opposition to Bill 3225. Children deserve the right to read books that will teach them about themselves and the world. Libraries must be protected from government overreach.

In order to comply with this vague legislation, libraries would have to restrict anyone under 18 to children's/teen/YA sections—they could not be allowed into the library's sections for the general (adult) public, where they might encounter "sexually explicit" books. Second, it would restrict the books that can be made available in those children's/teen/YA sections. No sex-ed books, no descriptions of "sexual contact" in YA novels meant for older teens. Art books would be at risk, as would innocent books like Eric Carle's Draw Me a Star and Maurice Sendak's In the Night Kitchen.

As a young adult, I found solace in books that taught me about consent, my body and the lives of people who were just like me or very different. This bill seeks to control content for children and teens and to get in the way of a world of information. Please Vote NO HB 3225. Information is power. Children deserve information and the power to choose books that help them.

Samuel McLellan

Self

Austin, TX

My name is Samuel McLellan, and I'm writing in opposition to HB 3225.

My fundamental issue with this bill is that it hinges on one group of people legislating for the entirety of the Texas population based on their taste and preference; but the issue at hand is something that belongs to us all equally: the public library and the written words and ideas contained within. I appreciate there are differences in the ways people view the world – we all have an ethos based on belief systems or individual creeds – and I understand this becomes even more important when we are raising children and teaching them about the wider world; but this is ultimately an issue that falls upon each individual family to discuss and decide for themselves. Every family must choose what is appropriate for their children to read and watch, and it is not fair or right in a democratic society for their wishes to determine what access the rest of us have.

We Texans appreciate our rugged individualism. If we truly want to say we decide our own fates, and tend to our own homes, then we should trust parents to set their own restrictions without them applying to all children.

Amelie E Kelly

self

Austin, TX

No parental opt-in or opt-out. Stop restricting our freedoms! I am opposed to this bill in its current form. I am opposed to ANY book banning. What are we? Pre-WWII Nazi Germany?

Cindy Asmussen

Southern Baptists of Texas Convention, Public Policy Advisor

Grapevine, TX

The Southern Baptists of Texas Convention strongly supports HB 3225. Children must be protected from pornographic, harmful, and explicit materials. There is never a reason to expose a child to these, whether by an individual, or institution. When children are exposed to these materials, it victimizes and traumatizes a child.

Visiting a local public library paid for by public tax dollars, should be a safe and happy place for children to learn and thrive, as well as not offend the religious convictions of many who seek to enjoy our public libraries with their children. These obscene and sexually explicit materials are harmful to children and also promote experimental and promiscuous activities.

The role of the state is to defend and encourage those who do good, protect the weak and innocent, and to punish evil doers. Today's children and teenagers are being exposed to sexualized materials at alarming rates, and bombarded with an increasing amount of societal and media pressure to be sexually active and experiment with lifestyles known to have high rates of sexually transmitted diseases and are destructive to the biblical and traditional views of marriage and family, which is a sacred union between one man and one woman and the foundation of a healthy society.

Our state and local government must ensure that legislation protects children under the age of 18 from the promotion of pornographic, harmful, explicit, and sexual materials, and prohibits public funds from being allocated to such programs.

Children must be protected, valued and cared for as the Bible stresses and teaches. We ask you to pass HB 3225.

Martha Sell

self / retired secondary English teacher

Amarillo, TX

Public libraries should be safe places for children to explore, learn, and grow. This bill provides common sense standards and accountability to restrict access to material that is not age appropriate for minors. Please vote YES on HB 3225. Thanks for considering my views.

Linda Hanratty, Ms
LWV Tarrant County Texas
Fort Worth, TX

Please reject HB 3225. Book banning is bad. If some people don't like the materials in books, they don't have to read them. But it is wrong to censor other people's reading material, especially given the vague wording of this bill. Book banning and book burning is what the Nazis did. Remember how that turned out.

Michele Beard
self
Richmond, TX

I am writing to express my opposition to HB3225. Our public libraries are common spaces for Texans of all ages and all walks of life. They are staffed with professionals who are able to determine their patrons needs, no matter their age. Our libraries provide vital services to parents and children, and they should never be restricted by the government. It is parents, not the government, who have the right to determine what their children choose in the library, and this bill is an infringement on parental rights. Parents, not the government, should determine what books are and are not appropriate for their children. Protect parent rights and vote no on HB3225.

Elisha Rurka
Self
Southlake, TX

Statement Opposing HB 3225 – A Threat to Freedom and Expression

I strongly oppose HB 3225 by Rep. Alders, which seeks to restrict minors' access to materials deemed "sexually explicit" in municipal public libraries. This bill not only imposes vague and subjective standards on public institutions, but it also represents a dangerous step toward censorship, undermining the intellectual freedom and access to diverse ideas that libraries are meant to uphold.

Public libraries serve as inclusive spaces where individuals of all ages can explore literature, history, identity, and the human experience. HB 3225 opens the door to the broad removal of books—often those that reflect the lives and experiences of LGBTQ+ individuals, people of color, and others whose stories are already underrepresented.

Young people deserve the freedom to read, learn, and think critically without political interference. This bill sets a troubling precedent and risks silencing essential voices under the guise of protection.

I urge lawmakers to reject HB 3225 and instead champion policies that uphold our constitutional rights to free expression, access to information, and educational equity for all Texans.

Elka Murphy
Self
Amarillo, TX

The children of this State deserve to have safe guards and protection in public settings. I support this Bill and would like to see Congress take a stand in protecting our children by passing this Bill.

Stephen Zarate
Self
Maypearl, TX

I support this bill.

Tyler Landrum
self, inventory management
Austin, TX

I oppose this measure. The effect is so broad that it would exclude children and young adults from any material that contains even the slightest possible mention of explicit activities, even if the body of the work as a whole is harmless, or if it uses the mention of these activities in pursuit of a meaningful or educational purpose. Youths would be unable to access the Bible, study the works of Shakespeare, or freely explore the body of classical literature and other forms of literary culture that society has provided. Furthermore, it would diminish the ability of parents and local educators to decide the educational path of their children, and with their expertise these should be the most influential in such decisions.

Adriana Prieto
Self
Longview, TX

We should not have limits to what books we can read in the library. That's censorship.

Margaret Chirido
Self - Poet
Spring, TX

Restricting access to knowledge and art is a sign of dangerous government overreach. Children deserve better than this. Public libraries are one of the few remaining goods which communities can enjoy free of charge. Each attempt to limit access or deny funding to these spaces is a way of hindering public education.

Catherine Viens
Self
College Station, TX

The protection from pornographic materials is a top priority of not just the Republican Party - I fully support penalties for violations and keeping these materials out of public and school libraries.

Mary Sue Ribardo
self/retired teacher
Bryan, TX

I highly support HB 3225 to place restrictions on public libraries concerning sexually explicit content for children. It's time to end WOKE policies that harm our youth!

Warren Qualley, MR
self
Bryan, TX

I am AGAINST this bill. The wording is such that every book that contains anything sexual means that it has no redeeming value. By this definition the Bible should be off limits to those under 18 years old. I was thankful that my three children had access to a rich variety of content, including those that had sexual terms and references because it's part of life. I made sure that what they were reading was appropriate for their age. I'm also thankful that my children allow my grandchildren to read a variety of books, knowing that they make the same decisions about what is appropriate for their age. I ask that you leave it to parents/guardians to determine what books and other reading materials that their children have access to. This is NOT something that should ever be legislated. Thank you in advance for voting AGAINST HB3225.

Benjamin Freeman

Self, engineer

Austin, TX

I am writing to ask you to oppose HB 3225. The passage of this bill has several flaws that would harm our libraries and make access to books more difficult for those under 18.

First, the language of the bill is exceptionally broad. "Sexually explicit" is a term that could restrict access to books with even vaguely romantic language. Such loose wording can, and likely will, be used to ban books capriciously.

Additionally, the restriction of minors from "adult" areas of the library will prevent them from accessing many of the resources available. Many students read well above their grade level and would be unable to continue their intellectual growth by reading more complex novels. This will only serve to limit their access to information and learning opportunities.

Finally, libraries already struggle with the staff and resources to manage the programs they administer. Requiring them to monitor access to sections of the library or spending money they don't have on physical infrastructure to limit access would be entirely impractical.

Again, I implore you to reject this bill and allow parents and librarians to decide what is best for the children who use our libraries.

Benjamin Freeman

Joyce Pulich

self

Austin, TX

This bill would amount to banning books. Citizens have the right to read what they choose, not what a civil authority decides they should be allowed to read. Book bans tend to be arbitrary and capricious and interfere with the basic right to obtain information.

Larry Lasiter

self

Lufkin, TX

I very strongly support passage of HV 3225! Our public libraries in Texas should be a safe place where our children and grandchildren can go and not be exposed to gender or sexually explicit materials. Please vote YES on HB 3225!

Elizabeth Griswold

self

Heath, TX

I'm writing as your constituent to urge you to vote NO on HB 3225, which is scheduled for a hearing in the House State Affairs Committee.

This bill would create vague and punitive restrictions on public libraries, forcing them to censor access to a wide range of materials under the broad and undefined label of "sexually explicit." In reality, this will result in the banning or removal of books that reflect the diverse experiences of Texans—especially books about LGBTQ+ people, reproductive health, and race.

We must not allow the state to weaponize the term "sexually explicit" to push censorship, silence marginalized voices, and penalize libraries for serving the full public.

Here's why HB 3225 is dangerous:

- ?? It encourages broad censorship under vague definitions.

- ?? It restricts teens' and young adults' access to age-appropriate materials.

- ??? It subjects libraries to civil penalties and funding cuts.

- ?? It wastes taxpayer money on legal battles and unnecessary bureaucracy.

- ?? It opens the door to politically motivated book bans.

Texans value freedom of thought, freedom of information, and the right for families—not politicians—to decide what's appropriate for their children.

Please stand for the First Amendment, support our librarians, and protect access to diverse books for all Texans—especially our youth. Vote NAY on HB 3225.

Wendi Griswold

Self

Heath, TX

Say no to censorship and allow the First Amendment to be for EVERYONE like it is supposed to be. HB 3225 is a dangerous censorship bill that will be heard in the House State Affairs Committee. It threatens our public libraries, targets diverse stories, and undermines the freedom to read.

HB 3225 would force municipal public libraries to ban or restrict access to any book labeled "sexually explicit"—but the definition is so broad and vague, it will be used to target books about LGBTQ+ lives, reproductive health, race, gender, and identity.

And it comes with punishment: fines of up to \$10,000, loss of state funding, and the threat of lawsuits.

Here's what that means for Texas families:

- Kids and teens will lose access to important, age-appropriate books.

- Public libraries will be pressured into censorship by outside political groups.

- Librarians will face harassment and risk for simply doing their jobs.

- Texans will lose local control over what's on our shelves.

Lisa Healy
Self
Midlothian, TX

I support this bill. Please vote it out of committee. Thank you for your consideration.

Sarah Cypher
Self
Austin, TX

Dear Committee Members,

As your constituent, I'm writing to you today to express my support for school libraries in our state and my strong opposition to HB 3225 and the intentionally misleading terms in which it is framed. I am a Texas author who has sat in the very same rooms of the Capitol for the Texas Book Festival, advocating for the power of literature, and especially the power of books that help children recognize themselves on their library's shelves. And as the sister of a school librarian, I am confident that professional librarians are experts: they are already ensuring that a range of excellent, best-in-language, age-appropriate books are available as a free and supportive resource to students.

School libraries aren't a battleground. They are the biggest classroom in the school where children are free to learn and engage with the fields of study that interest them. The link between strong school library programs and student achievement is well documented. Over the past 20 years, numerous studies have shown that elementary schools with at least one full-time certified teacher-librarian performed better on state tests; undermining the power of these professionals to curate their libraries is an overreach of government power.

HB 3225 is part of a broader attack on libraries and education. I'm concerned because without a strong foundation of literacy and access to books as children, these students will grow up contributing to higher rates of illiteracy among adults to the country. Adult illiteracy rates are estimated to cost US tax payers hundreds of billions of dollars each year and illiteracy in adults can be connected to almost every socio-economic issue in the country—to say nothing of reinforcing the marginalization of LGBTQ+ youth.

Please take this bill out of consideration and let librarians do their jobs.

Sincerely,
Sarah Cypher

Hearing Date: April 14, 2025 8:00 AM

Ashra Londa
Self - librarian
Denton, TX

Hello! My name is Ashra and I oppose HB 3225. I believe that the parent should be responsible for choosing what materials their children can check out, and it is the librarian's responsibility to provide rich and diverse materials to the public. This bill will restrict access to books for children.

I worry that books will be wrongfully accused of being pornographic. As librarians, we are trained NOT to provide these materials for minors. What will ensure that books are not wrongfully banned when the librarian's job was already to do so? I worry this bill may cause patrons to wrongfully accuse librarians of providing materials that are not sexually explicit. This statute is vague. What connotes "explicit?"

I worry that this bill will cause more problems than offer solutions.

Thank you for your time.

Kathy Kennedy
self
Llano, TX

This bill is unnecessary and will restrict public libraries from being a free space to read. Parents have the final say on what their children read at this very moment. No parent wants a government to tell a parent how to raise their child. It is not the State of Texas' right or responsibility to dictate to a parent what their child should read. A public library should be a space with all kinds of books for all kinds of people. Not just books that the State approves of. Differences of opinion on books is the point. If you don't want to read a book, no one will force you to do so. Also, if you don't want YOUR CHILD to read certain books, you can use your parental authority to restrict those books from your child. This is wrong and headed in the very wrong direction of censorship which history has proven will not look kindly upon the censors.

Hannah Jala
self
Austin, TX

I am writing today to urge the committee to strongly oppose Texas HB3225. This bill is problematic because it attacks access to books in public libraries. HB3225 forbids municipal public libraries from allowing anyone under 18 to access "sexually explicit" materials without clearly defining "sexually explicit."

In order to comply with this vague legislation, libraries would have to restrict anyone under 18 to children's/teen/YA sections—they could not be allowed into the library's sections for the general (adult) public, where they might encounter "sexually explicit" books. Second, it would restrict the books that can be made available in those children's/teen/YA sections. No sex-ed books, no descriptions of "sexual contact" in YA novels meant for older teens. Art books would be at risk, as would innocent books like Eric Carle's Draw Me a Star and Maurice Sendak's In the Night Kitchen.

Additionally, small and rural libraries that do not have separate areas for children, teens, and adult library materials would not be able to properly serve the needs of all community members under this bill. I strongly urge you to vote against HB3225 and to protect my First Amendment freedom to access information.

Caroline Helms
self - Librarian
Gonzales, TX

I support the freedom to read for all. Parents should be able to decide what is appropriate for their child, not the government.

Katherine Thonen

self, academic librarian

San Antonio, TX

Public libraries are community centers that provide anyone with access to resources and information. To deem material inappropriate for children is the responsibility of a parent or guardian, not the government. This bill undermines the reality that librarians, like most adults with children, value the children of their community. Librarians, especially children's librarians, understand the content on their shelves; they know the reading adventure, how and why children are drawn to books, and how to use that innate sense of childhood wonder to cultivate a lifelong love of reading and knowledge acquisition. Children's librarians will not lead a child to inappropriate material for their age or mental capacity. We, as master's degree-holding scholars, are trained not to. If a parent wants to restrict access to a book for moral or ethical reasons, that is their prerogative and right. This bill removes that right. This bill suggests that parents and highly trained information professionals working in public libraries cannot make sound judgment choices and believe that civil penalties are necessary to restrict access to information. This bill opens the door to targeting those needing information resources and connectivity to their community the most. It ensures that humans exploring their sexuality, something all must do to reach maturity, cannot learn about themselves from resources vetted by knowledgeable purchasers (librarians). It ensures that those children will find the information they seek from disreputable or dangerous sources and lack a community to support them and provide safe spaces to become their adult selves. I am a parent, a PTA member, and a librarian. I have worked in public, school, private, and academic libraries and have seen that all librarians take the responsibility of advising and guiding patrons to reputable and sound resources thoughtfully. It is a foundation of the profession. Please do not support this bill. If there is a fear of minors accessing resources inappropriate to their age, I suggest we fund libraries better. Provide continuing education resources for librarians to continue offering relevant and up-to-date information. I know additional funding is not currently being discussed. However, this bill works against the aim of making critical-thinking and autonomous adults, traits inherent in the Texas ethos. Please do not allow the government to regulate intellectual inquiry and access to information; keep that right and responsibility where it belongs, with the individual. Allow libraries to do their job and librarians to accomplish their calling: connecting information seekers to the information they seek. Please do not support this bill.

Matthew Glaser

Self, Librarian

Waco, TX

Public libraries have selection policies and criteria in place, often already approved and/or endorsed by their governing bodies, for selecting and purchasing books. These policies already prevent explicit materials from being added to the collection, especially a youth collection. Further, it is not the government's responsibility - nor should it be - to determine what is and isn't appropriate for any reader of any age or reading level. This bill does not even allow for a parent to opt in or out of their own child's access to library materials, which many public libraries also offer. Please vote NO for this bill, as the bill will create unnecessary and undue stress on public librarians and library staff. It has too many ramifications and consequences that benefit no one. Thank you.

Kayley Smith
Self
Kingwood, TX

Honorable Texas Representatives,

I am writing today to urge you to vote no on HB 3225 as it would tangibly cause harm to Texas minors and contribute to a growing attack on protected free speech.

Sexuality is a normal part of every single human being's life and maturation. As such, access educational and artistically expressed information about our sexuality is essential to our growth and maturation as adults. In fact, studies show that education on human sexuality and body parts directly reduce minors' chances of being sexually abused in their lifetimes. Without free and unfettered access to books discussing and referencing human sexuality, minors will suffer. It should be up to parents with input from their child whether or not a book is appropriate for their child — not the state. This directly affects the right to free speech.

A bill like this - both restricting important materials and including no freedom to opt in or out of these restrictions based on parental supervision - would cause tangible harm to minors and would almost certainly result in higher sexual abuse instances for minors.

Some would argue "well they can still buy the books," but the average American doesn't have extra money to throw at such resources. Libraries provide a necessary free resource that enables children and adults to learn more about themselves, the world, and more. By restricting access to that knowledge, we directly harm our population. Without educated children and minors, we will have no educated adults to run our country effectively in the very near future.

For these reasons, I must urge you to vote "no" on HB3225.

Thank you for your time.
Kayley Smith, a concerned constituent and lover of libraries.

Beth Christopherson
self
Houston, TX

I am writing to oppose HB 3225. Texas values freedoms for parents. Parents, not the government, should decide what their children can read. Please protect parents' rights and vote no on HB 3225.

Amanda Braziel-Holleman
Self- school librarian
Austin, TX

As a children's librarian with decades of experience, I OPPOSE HB 3225. Children's parents should be the ones to determine whether or not a child can read a particular book. Legislators need to stay out of libraries. Librarians should support students' freedom to read, as well as their first amendment rights. Therefore, librarians should not be in the business of banning, segregating, or censoring reading material.

Olivia Osborn
self, data analyst (ex-librarian)
Round Rock, TX

I strongly oppose this bill because "sexually explicit materials" is too vague a descriptor and likely would result in restricting access to books about identity and preference. Kids need to be able to access books with a spectrum of topics and viewpoints. I have seen what books some parents want banned from schools, and I think this would be another excuse for people to ban books with viewpoints they don't like. At the very least, it should be under the parent's control to opt-in or opt-out of this restriction. It is dangerous when you start letting governments small or large decide what information or experiences people have access to learn about, regardless of age.

Emily Fancher Mobley

Self

Fort Worth, TX

Hello,

I was homeschooled by my mother who was a stay at home mom. She did her best but unfortunately she was prone to believing in conspiracy theories. This drove her to isolate herself and her kids from the world. We attended church occasionally and were denied opportunities to socialize outside of the extreme faith. When I finally got my driver's license as a minor, it was the first taste of freedom I had ever had. When I discovered the public library it was the first taste to trust in learning. My mother had used very specific curriculums and in some subjects simply neglected to teach it. I read everything I could get my hands on. Read opposing thoughts and writers of every stripe. I read folks who were pro and those who were con. I read books entirely for pleasure sometimes and it gave me a healthy escape. Some things may have been considered explicit to my mother. It was art. It was telling my story. It was helping me understand myself. It was helping me understand others. Some of the books that those like my mother would call sexually explicit would simply represent a love or life different than their own. Being a good neighbor requires us to love each other as we do ourselves. We would never be alright with our neighbors policing what material we are allowed to have access to. I'm happier and more successful than I've ever been because of the way open access to all of the library freed me mentally and taught me to educate my opinions me as a minor.

Who determines what is sexually explicit? As stated evangelical christians would label any mention of lgbtq+ identities as sexually explicit. This is discriminatory against real neighbors who exist and deserve to simply exist in media.

How does criminalizing libraries in any way help society? Provide the studies that support this action as i have found none. Limiting libraries has always been done by a discriminatory oppressor. Prove to the constituents that the data supports this action.

I urge you to vote against HB 3225.

Thank you,

Angie Bartula

self

Plano, TX

I am writing today to urge you to strongly oppose Texas HB3225, which will be presented before your State Affairs committee on April 14, 2025. This bill is problematic because it attacks access to books in public libraries. HB3225 forbids municipal public libraries from allowing anyone under 18 to access “sexually explicit” materials without clearly defining "sexually explicit."

In order to comply with this vague legislation, libraries would have to restrict anyone under 18 to children's/teen/YA sections—they could not be allowed into the library's sections for the general (adult) public, where they might encounter “sexually explicit” books. Second, it would restrict the books that can be made available in those children's/teen/YA sections. No sex-ed books, no descriptions of “sexual contact” in YA novels meant for older teens. Art books would be at risk, as would innocent books like Eric Carle's Draw Me a Star and Maurice Sendak's In the Night Kitchen.

Additionally, small and rural libraries that do not have separate areas for children, teens, and adult library materials would not be able to properly serve the needs of all community members under this bill. I strongly urge you to vote against HB3225 and to protect my First Amendment freedom to access information.

Gregory Day

Self

Austin, TX

This bill will harm libraries and the free access to information that many Texas communities rely upon. Children learn to read and cultivate knowledge by having access to a library, especially those that come from families that cannot afford to purchase books or have access to internet resources. I work for an independent bookstore and small stores like ours create jobs and depend on libraries to help create the next generation of readers. This bill will only harm our ability to thrive as an industry.

I'm sure you are aware of how a similar bill is affecting the state of Idaho. This bill, like Idaho's, will have unintended consequences like barring minors from libraries and removing books of literary, educational, and religious value. This bill is also most likely unconstitutional, unduly restricting the rights of adults as well as older minors. Frankly, this is an un-American act and an attempt of overreach from a large government, the exact thing conservatives claim to oppose. This is not a bill you or anyone else should be supporting.

Thank you for your time,

Gregory

Natalie Yoyungberg

self

Kingwood, TX

I am writing today to urge you to strongly oppose Texas HB3225, which will be presented before your State Affairs committee on April 14, 2025. This bill is problematic because it attacks access to books in public libraries. HB3225 forbids municipal public libraries from allowing anyone under 18 to access "sexually explicit" materials without clearly defining "sexually explicit."

In order to comply with this vague legislation, libraries would have to restrict anyone under 18 to children's/teen/YA sections—they could not be allowed into the library's sections for the general (adult) public, where they might encounter "sexually explicit" books. Second, it would restrict the books that can be made available in those children's/teen/YA sections. No sex-ed books, no descriptions of "sexual contact" in YA novels meant for older teens. Art books would be at risk, as would innocent books like Eric Carle's *Draw Me a Star* and Maurice Sendak's *In the Night Kitchen*.

Additionally, small and rural libraries that do not have separate areas for children, teens, and adult library materials would not be able to properly serve the needs of all community members under this bill. I strongly urge you to vote against HB3225 and to protect my First Amendment freedom to access information.

Bonnie Campbell

Self/ retired

Austin, TX

Please consider rejecting this bill as it impinges on the rights of parents and Children to Open access to books of choice. It puts the burden on the library system, which in the end just cost taxpayers more money and causes internal conflict. I will focus on sexuality alone raises the question of why are we not focusing on violence in books and in movies as much as we doing sexuality. In the end, this is a choice for people and not for the government. thank you, Bonnie

Elvia Palacios

self

Austin, TX

I am fiercely against this bill being passed. The way it is written is overly broad on its definition of "sexually explicit" which would make it very subjective in its enforcement and will make it unreasonably onerous to implement in a public space that should be accessible to ALL who enter. Though, the exception for "religious materials" makes it clear to me that you are willing to protect the intellectual freedom and free speech of the religious class, namely Christians and their texts, from this governmental overreach. This bill does not even make exceptions for parents to make their OWN choice for their OWN children to opt-out of this restriction of access. This bill is an example of the Texas government assuming the role of all parents for all Texas children, and it is not constitutional and it is not what the majority of Texans want. I have worked at a municipal library for nearly seven years at the circulation desk, and never has the issue of so-called "sexually explicit" materials being accessed by minors been brought up by a concerned parent at the library. This is just not a prevalent issue brought on by the community that we serve. I can tell you interactions I have had: parents and caretakers have asked for recommendations on materials that avoid certain topics or are age appropriate, and we have absolutely been able to fill those requests easily with our collection. Here is an example of a diligent parent working with their library's staff to make their own decisions on the materials their child will read.

On other occasions, I have directed parents to materials in the children's or teen's space that, if this bill would pass, I know would no longer be accessible to their family to meet their informational and recreational reading needs. And this restriction would eliminate all input or freedom of choice from the parent, and severely limit the access to information and stories that act as mirrors and windows from our young population. This is unacceptable.

I check-in thousands of books every year. I know my community, and I have seen the books and information that they want and even expect to be available to them. So I know the great, detrimental impact this bill will have on my community. Us library staff are trained on how to recommend books, our librarians have Master's degrees specialized in information access and age-appropriate reader's recommendations. This bill is not solving a problem expressed by my community. It is creating an unconstitutional problem that will have huge consequences for Texans.

Sylvia Campbell

self

The Woodlands, TX

Dear Committee Members,

I am concerned that HB 3225 is gross overreach by the state, which is trying to determine what minor children are allowed to read. It is the parents who should make those choices. The broadly defined term "sexually explicit" is wrought with problems. Important books for teens and children, including sex-education materials, novels, and even classic literature would be restricted. The bill does not even provide an "opt out" of the restricted access for their children. Texans do not want this kind of heavy-handed government.

I urge you to vote NO on HB 3225.

Thank you,

Sylvia Campbell

Mattie B
Self - Bookseller
Austin, TX

This bill's broad definition of "sexual conduct," coupled with its current strict disallowance of *any* material containing such, presents multiple challenges and issues which this bill also fails to address. There are no exceptions for works of literary, artistic, religious, or scientific merit; even strictly academic and scientific depictions of the human body and The Bible would need to be banned (and as a consequence, make the bill attempting to post The Ten Commandments in every public classroom illegal, as those would be coming from a work containing sexual content actively being shown to minors!). It places undue burden on an already overworked and understaffed public library system, requiring an impossible-to-surmount workload to review any work a library has ever possessed or will ever possess for this broadly defined "sexual conduct." It is flagrantly discriminatory, automatically labeling any instance or existence of characters, or discussions of life, outside the Republican gender ideology as "sexual." It's also just so fucking dumb. You don't keep kids safe by preventing their access to discussions of sexual conduct, you make them easier targets for sexual predators. You don't prevent kids from learning about sex by banning any references to it; you prevent kids from learning about sex in safe environments, instead driving them online, or engaging in unsafe hands-on learning in secret. You don't prevent kids from being gay or trans or even just a little weirder than what our pseudo-Christian society deems "normal," you just prevent them from feeling safe to be their authentic selves, and indeed actively increase their risk of suicide. This is a harm-filled bill, a hate-filled bill, an ignorant-fueled bill, and should not have even been brought into existence, let alone be considered for adoption into law.

Kristen Stewart
Swlf
Webster, TX

This is a ridiculous and impossible thing. This would destroy public libraries in this state

Alison Bennett, Mrs.
Self
Pearland, TX

I am voicing my concerns and opposition to HB 3225. For years we have been told that books being removed from public school libraries and classrooms, are not book bans, because parents and students can find those books at their local public library. Now, this bill is proposing to restrict our Kid's access to books in our local public libraries, too. As the bill is written, there is not even an option for parents to opt out of the restricted access for their own children. Parents - not the government- should determine what books are and are not appropriate for our children to read. Protect parent's rights, and vote "NO" on HB 3225.

Alexandra Yost
Self
Austin, TX

I strongly recommend voting AGAINST this bill. It is a book ban that limits free speech and is used to restrict stories about LGBTQ lives. If this is passed, the Bible would also fall into this category as there are extremely explicit content in the Bible.

Brinda Shah

Self, writer

Farmers Branch, TX

I am writing today as a reader, writer, mother, and human being to urge you to strongly oppose Texas HB3225, which will be presented before your State Affairs committee on Monday, April 14, 2025. This bill is problematic because it attacks access to books in public libraries.

Firstly, HB3225 forbids municipal public libraries from allowing anyone under 18 to access “sexually explicit” materials without clearly defining the term "sexually explicit." In order to comply with this vague legislation, libraries would have to restrict anyone under 18 to children's/teen/YA sections.

As a mother, I wouldn't be able to take my family to the general public area of the library when I want to browse books, essentially banning my 7 year old from the library. I grew up in libraries - I stickered younger children's reading logs, did my own research, and studied for my own pharmacy school exams in libraries. My son is growing up in libraries, too - I bring him to story times and programs, enroll him in the summer reading program at Irving Public Library and Manske Library systems, and rely on the staff and building as a community haven.

Secondly, young adults wouldn't be able to stretch their reading by looking at books in the general public area, even if there is no sexual content in the book. It would restrict the books that can be made available in those children's/teen/YA sections. Books designed to help teens and young adults through puberty would not be allowed. Many YA novels that deal with sexual issues offer teens red flags of bad relationships they can look for to make sure they are safe. Stopping young adults from learning through the characters in these books is the opposite of keeping them safe.

Thirdly, small and rural libraries that do not have separate areas for children, teens, and adult library materials would not be able to properly serve the needs of all community members under this bill. As a writer, I volunteered at the North Texas Teen Book Festival sponsored by the Irving Public Library, and found immense value in bringing readers, writers, and book lovers together. As an author, I rely on libraries to provide me with opportunities to connect with others. I strongly urge you to vote against HB3225 and to protect the First Amendment freedom to access information for all Texans.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Brinda Shah

Thomas Nieland, Mr

Self

Alamo, TX

Please stop HB 3225 from taking away ever more freedoms from Texans. This bill purports to add shield children from inappropriate reading materials for their age levels. It doesn't allow these children's parents to sign permission, just designates materials that some authority figures deem to be improper for children. Parents must be the ones who determine what's ok for their own children, not a self/state- appointed censor! Stop stripping Americans of our freedoms!

Sarah Box

self - librarian (public library)

Lake Jackson, TX

I write in firm opposition to Texas House Bill 3225, a bill that threatens to erode intellectual freedom, undermine professional standards in librarianship and education, and substitute politically motivated censorship for informed, community-driven decision-making.

At its core, HB 3225 proposes to grant unelected individuals undue authority to challenge and potentially remove educational library materials based on vague and ideologically skewed standards. This approach does not protect children—it politicizes education, silences marginalized voices, and dismantles the trust we place in trained professionals to curate age-appropriate and diverse resources for learners of all backgrounds.

This bill weaponizes the language of “parental rights” to elevate a small but vocal minority over the broad and diverse needs of entire school communities. While parents absolutely have the right to guide their own children’s reading and learning, HB 3225 effectively allows one complaint to dictate what no child can access. That is not choice—that is censorship.

HB 3225 undermines the expertise of certified librarians like myself, educators, and school boards, who follow rigorous standards and policies to select materials that foster critical thinking, reflect varied perspectives, and meet curriculum needs. It imposes a top-down, politically driven process in place of local control, open dialogue, and professional integrity.

The bill’s broad and ill-defined language invites overreach and creates a chilling effect on the inclusion of literature that explores race, gender, history, identity, and other essential aspects of the human experience. Books by and about LGBTQ+ individuals, people of color, and others who have historically been underrepresented in educational spaces are already being disproportionately targeted. HB 3225 will only accelerate this harmful trend and deprive students of the chance to see themselves—and others—reflected in the materials they read.

Moreover, the administrative burden this bill would place on school districts and public libraries is staggering. Time and resources that should be spent serving patrons and fostering a love of reading will instead be diverted to managing complaints, defending collections, and navigating arbitrary restrictions. This does not advance educational excellence; it drains energy from it.

Texas readers deserve the freedom to read, learn, and grow in environments that honor diversity, support intellectual inquiry, and prepare them for the realities of a complex world. HB 3225 does not protect children—it protects fear, division, and suppression.

I urge lawmakers to reject this bill and stand in defense of public education, professional expertise, and the constitutional rights of all Texans. Censorship has no place in our schools or libraries.

Respectfully submitted,
Sarah Box | Librarian

Natalie Newell

self

Lake Jackson, TX

This bill is proposing to restrict our kids' access to books in our local public libraries. As the bill is written, there is not even an option for parents to opt out of the restricted access for their children. Parents- not the government- should determine what books are and are not appropriate for their children to read. Please protect Texas parents' rights, and vote "no" on HB 3225

Ramon Telles Jr
self-Instructional Designer
Austin, TX

I am voicing concern and opposition to HB 3225 that will be heard by the State Affairs Committee on Monday. For years, we have been told that books being removed from public school libraries and classrooms, are not book bans, because parents and students can find those books at their local public library. Now, this bill is proposing to restrict our kids' access to books in our local public libraries too. As the bill is written, there is not even an option for parents to opt out of the restricted access for their own children. Parents, not the government, should determine what books are and are not appropriate for our children to read. Please protect Texas parent's rights, and vote "no" on HB 3225.

Lindsey Ramirez
Self
Austin, TX

This bill is problematic because it attacks access to books in public libraries. HB3225 forbids municipal public libraries from allowing anyone under 18 to access "sexually explicit" materials without clearly defining "sexually explicit."

In order to comply with this vague legislation, libraries would have to restrict anyone under 18 to children's/teen/YA sections—they could not be allowed into the library's sections for the general (adult) public, where they might encounter "sexually explicit" books. Second, it would restrict the books that can be made available in those children's/teen/YA sections. No sex-ed books, no descriptions of "sexual contact" in YA novels meant for older teens. Art books would be at risk, as would innocent books like Eric Carle's Draw Me a Star and Maurice Sendak's In the Night Kitchen.

Additionally, small and rural libraries that do not have separate areas for children, teens, and adult library materials would not be able to properly serve the needs of all community members under this bill. I strongly urge you to vote against HB3225 and to protect my First Amendment freedom to access information.

Sarah Sanabria
Self, librarian
Richardson, TX

I ask that this bill be rejected by members of the House. Many public libraries lack the ability, within their physical structures, to create a section that is barred to children (who do tend to run around the building unless actively monitored by parents). This bill would make inaccessible (even to a 17 year old) basic texts like information books about human anatomy (necessary for completing coursework in high school), puberty (necessary for children to understand their bodies), and literary classics that could be construed as somehow having something to do with sex. Some libraries in states that have adopted such statutes have had to bar children from their buildings altogether. This is not reasonable. This is not letting parents decide what their children can read. This is government speech codes, censorship, and control. As a parent, I am the one to decide what my children read -- not the Texas House, nor any other group. Please protect the rights of Texas parents. Thank you for your consideration.

Janet Mcauley
Self
DUNCANVILLE, TX

There are existing rules for appropriate content for children. As a retired librarian I understand the importance of books and their access for learning. This bill has potential to be abused limiting access to literature because of an individual's opinion. Parents that check in with their children and follow their interest know what those children read. It is not the government or librarian to limit that. Our children need encouragement to explore books and learning with literature and poetry not discouragement. The internet sadly has more inappropriate information than books could ever have. Please help our libraries be a safe space for people to be able to be calm and read.

Cori Feldman
Self
Richardson, TX

As a well-read, educated, and informed parent of two minors, I urge you to **STRONGLY OPPOSE** HB 3225 which seeks to ban access to certain books for minors as determined by the state, NOT by the highly educated and expertly credentialed librarians, and with no opt in or opt out for parents. The sweeping terms being used to decide what should be banned do not take into any account the actual content of the books themselves nor their value. PARENTS should have the right and the responsibility to determine what is and is not appropriate for their own children to read, and no one else should take that right from them. It's simple - if you don't want your child to read a certain book, don't check it out. Trust the experts, the librarians, but also be responsible as a parent to do your OWN research to determine if a book is right for your child - and not every child is the same. Again, I urge you to oppose this bill and leave the choice and responsibility to the parents. Texas parents deserve the freedom for their children to read what they choose without any censorship but their own and without access to all types of books for all types of people.

Sarah Ruttan
Parent
Austin, TX

As a parent of 2 teens who regularly use our public library, I am adamantly opposed to this bill. As a parent, I want my kids to have the freedom to choose any book. This should not be dictated by state law and their access at a public library should not be restricted. Our teenagers rely on the library system and learn about life and the world from reading. There is nothing wrong with the books they have access to. When we start to restrict access based on content we risk our student missing out on key literature and authors. Let's allow true freedom- parents having good conversations with their kids and kids making their own choices about books that interest them. Let's let public librarians be the professionals that they are and continue to have freedom to select and shelve books that appeal to and represent all kids!

Hollie Jenkins
self
Austin, TX

I am writing today to urge you to strongly oppose Texas HB3225 because it attacks access to books in public libraries. I am a parent and I should be the only one to restrict what MY children can read. I strongly urge you to vote against HB3225 and to protect our First Amendment freedom to access information.

Margie Cleere, Realtor
Self
Whitehouse, TX

We need to keep our children safe harmful images and language. It is not acceptable. That adult explicit materials would be anywhere near access to children. Please pass this bill.

Savannah Tucker
Self/ Clerk
Baytown, TX

Please do not take away the freedom of art.

Leslie Spatz, Dr.
Self retired teacher
Stephenville, TX

I strongly oppose this bill, which does not even allow for a parental opting out. This is an outright ban on books. Parents and guardians can and should be the ones who supervise what a minor person should be reading. Government should stay out of it. This is an outright infringement and overreach of government. Everything about this bill is wrong. Everything. Please vote No.

Matthew Morrison

Self. Academic Librarian and Professor of Information Literacy

Fort Worth, TX

HB 3225 is a bad bill for many reasons. Chief among them is the bill's failure to provide a clear definition of "sexually explicit." Many people have differing opinions on what constitutes sexually explicit. Some religions prohibit a woman's hair or face being seen by anyone but her father or husband, yet we do not expect every woman in Texas to wear a headscarf to avoid offending these people. This bill, however, would impose such a standard on libraries around Texas. More, it would make our public librarians - already overworked and unappreciated - into "book cops." Beyond wasting their time by making them chase children out of the adult areas of the library, this bill takes away the rights of parents to determine what is right for their children. My mother allowed me to check out whatever books caught my eye in whatever part of the library I wandered with her at my side. This did me a world of good, teaching me the value of knowledge at an early age. This bill, as written, would deny other parents that right. There is also a budgetary issue to consider, as this bill seems to believe all libraries have clearly defined children's and adult sections. Most libraries I have seen in Texas, as a library patron and a librarian have an open, airy feeling, allowing one to wander freely. Only the largest libraries, like the one in downtown Dallas, have separate floors or separate rooms allowing staff to give children their own space. I am also concerned about how this bill makes no allowances for young adult materials which, while containing sexual content, are not pornographic and indeed contain information that might warn a teenager about the dangers of sexual activity. I recall a teenager with a bad home life who practically lived at my library. Books were her escape and her window into a better world. One book she told me she liked was about teen runaways who fell into drug abuse and prostitution. She told me that book stopped her from running away and made her more determined to get away from her parents, who CPS had been called about many times. She has since then gone to college and begun studying to become a special education teacher - all because of a book that HB3225 would likely criminalize. As parents and educators, it is only natural for us to want to protect our children and youths from that which might hurt them. Yet I have never been aware of any instance where a lack of information actually helped anyone, save the criminal or the corrupt. Librarians are committed to making information freely available to all who need it. HB3225 would make it impossible for us to do that, while supplanting the already existing systems that allow parents to control their children's library access and citizens to request reconsideration of any materials they find inappropriate. I urge the House to vote against HB3225 and affirm the right to read freely and be informed.

Renee Concolino

Texas Freedom to Read Co project

Willis, TX

As a parent, I have always opted to review and even read books that I had any concern about prior to my children reading. If after reading I was comfortable with said books, I would approve or refuse access to those books. If I had some mild concerns or reservations I would make my children review the book after each chapter. To discuss anything that they were confused about or might be complex. My children are now 25 and 27 and are very well adapted and successful adults.

Kelly Wiggains

Self

Georgetown, TX

Public Libraries are fundamental to strong Texas communities. They provide access to information for all of our citizens and services that make Texan's lives better. HB 3225 is based on censorship and fear that distrusts parents, professional librarians, and local elected officials to make the best decisions for their communities. Libraries are lovely, organized places with areas for all patrons. HB3225 would stretch thin an already tight budget on most libraries and would cost an excessively stupid amount of money to enforce all to no end. The kinds of protections this bill claims to provide can be provided easier and more efficiently by dedicated parents who can decide what is best for their families regarding what books and information materials they choose to read.

Melinda Bayer
self retired
League City,, TX

Please stop censoring the freedom of speech of all Americans. Books provide people, especially children, an opportunity to see new people, learn new things, enjoy exciting stories. They help children develop their ability to think critically making them well rounded adults. No one should decide what a person can read but that person. For children parents can decide what THEIR child reads. They should not be allowed to decide what my child reads. Free libraries belong to all.

Barbara Stevens
self, retired
Austin, TX

Keep access to public libraries open and free.

Jade Wray
self
Troup, TX

My Name is Jade Wray and I am a mother 4. I support this bill cause I want my children to have safe places to get books from. They should be able to pull a book off the shelf where books like Garfield are without books having images of people having sex just inches away. I pride myself that I work hard to protect my kids. But IT IS HARD when they are under attack like this. I understand that public libraries are for the public so keep the books but just have them not directly in an area a minor are going to be at regularly. It's a win win. Library can still have all their books and kids can be kids. My library has board approved policies that support this already and librarians refuse to move them and the board won't enforce. We need a law in place. Please vote yes on HB3225. Protect kids and support parents. Thank you!

Carrie Ives
self
Richardson, TX

This is putting extra work onto our librarians. This is an unfunded mandate. Librarians are trained professionals; this bill suggests that they don't know how to pick materials based on the audience. As I read this, it is not clear at what point it becomes sexually explicit material. If a library makes a mistake or isn't fast enough with the review process the penalty appears to be removal of funding. This is just asking for people who don't like reading and want to control other people to take control away from parents and librarians and put it in the hands of a rabid few taliban-esk fundamentalists.

Kimberly Ellery
Self - Accountant
Canyon Lake, TX

I oppose this bill. My family and I are readers. We can't afford to purchase books all the time from a bookseller so we use our public library, which is not a big library whatsoever. All book collections (child, adult) are in one big room though they have distinct areas within the library (child on one end and adult on the other). It would be very expensive to separate the room into distinct areas. Most rural, and even city libraries aren't able separate areas. The libraries already struggle for funding. Regarding not allowing children into an area where there is "sexual explicit" material...well this next to impossible with most libraries simply due to what I mentioned before. Secondly, to not allow a minor into the adult section of the library is ridiculous. That means they can't go to the sections on cookbook, crafting, history, astronomy, travel, etc. Why would we want to limit our next generation from learning and expanding their brains?? Before this bill should pass, every single law maker should go to their local library and spend time there. Talk to the people USING the library and ask what THEY would like to see. There are much bigger issues in this state than where books are in the library. I wish we, as Texans, would look at what is going on that truly needs our attention (water resources, energy demands, housing, food insecurity, education, immigration) and not something that you are trying to make a an issue out. Thank you.

Tammy Ball
self
Kingwood, TX

Minors should not be restricted in the library. Knowledge is power and books ignite conversations with parents, friends, family. Librarians and/or teachers should in no way ever be punished for providing access to the wider world through books.

Jessica Smith, Library Volunteer
Self
League City, TX

What is being defined as sexually explicit? Please make a concrete definition of that. If that definition remains vague, so that items with LGBTQ+ topics may be included, that is discriminatory. Teaching children about people who exist is not evil, and it makes a better society because it lets others empathize. The claim that libraries contain explicit materials for children is also a statement of how little interaction with libraries the lawmakers have. There is a very processed system in which books are sorted for ages, there are age on the books when they are purchased through vendors, the librarian in charge of the section a book goes to then also reads it to check if the age rating was appropriate. After that the book is processed and given a check out code. Libraries are not putting pornographic material in the children's sections, because people have basic common sense. This is also an issue of first amendment rights, and parental rights. This bill will be challenged if it passes because it is a parent's right to dictate what their child can or cannot read. Parents can very easily request that their child be not allowed to check out a book, or monitor what their child checks out. My final statement is focus on what is actually hurting children, rather than some straw man problem you came up with. And if you decide to move forward with this waste of time and money, I'm sure you will gladly enjoy your talks with The American Libraries Association.

Karen Santhanam
Self
Cedar Park, TX

I oppose this bill. Parents should be making choices for their kids, not the legislators. Who decides what is sexually explicit? Sex is part of human nature and we need education on it, not censorship.

Carolina Neves
Self
Tomball, TX

I am opposed to this law because it will take my right as a parent to choose what my child can or not read. Also in the land of the free that is no space for censorship.

Gerard Ross
Self
El Paso, TX

I oppose this bill as the use of the term sexually explicit is vague and is used to prevent sex education and LGBTQ topics from being available to students. This will inhibit the healthy psychological development of children and lead to negative outcomes.

Sandra Alvarez
N/A
Austin, TX

I oppose this bill. Please vote No.

Sarah Lewis

Self

Kerrville, TX

Hello. I am writing to ask you to oppose HB3225. For years, we have been told that books being removed from public school libraries and classrooms, are not book bans, because parents and students can find those books at their local public library. Now, this bill is proposing to restrict our kids' access to books in our local public libraries, too. As the bill is written, there is not even an option for parents to opt out of the restricted access for their own children. Parents- not the government- should determine what books are and are not appropriate for their own children to read. Please protect Texas parent's rights, and vote "no" on HB 3225.

Melissa Campbell

Self

Houston, TX

I urge you the Texas House State Affairs Committee to strongly oppose TexasHB3225, This bill is problematic because it attacks access to books in public libraries. HB3225 forbids municipal public libraries from allowing anyone under 18 to access “sexually explicit” materials without clearly defining "sexually explicit."

HB 3225 would:

Ban anyone under 18 from accessing “sexually explicit” materials—a term so broadly defined that it includes books with any descriptions of “sexual conduct,” regardless of context or intent.

Prevent libraries from curating or displaying many important books in teen and children’s sections, including sex-education materials, young adult novels, and even classic literature and art books.

Restrict youth from accessing the general collection—even for school assignments or research—potentially blocking students from reading *The Great Gatsby*, *The Color Purple*, or *Beloved*.

Force libraries to implement costly, impractical segregation of books and spaces, or risk legal consequences.

Thank you!

Melissa Campbell

Joanne Richards

self

Austin, TX

I oppose HB 3225. This bill will have significant unintended consequences particularly in the removal of books of literary, educational, and religious value. I am in a position to decide what is appropriate reading material for my children not the Texas legislature. Books like *Human Physiology* by Lauralee Sherwood would be banned. The classic *Our Bodies Ourselves* would be banned. We need an educated population not one with heads in the sand blind to shared knowledge. As an educator, I am appalled by censorship in our public libraries.

Susan Taylor

self

Austin, TX

This bill would attack access to books in public libraries and threatens my First Amendment freedom to access information. Many small and rural libraries do not have separate areas for children, teens, and adult library materials, so they would not be able to properly serve the needs of all community members under this bill. I strongly urge you to vote against HB3225.

Kitty Farias
Beyond The Covers
Houston, TX

I'm submitting these comments because I
concerned about the impact of this bill on my business. Small independent bookstores create jobs and depend on libraries to help
create the next generation of readers.
The bill will have unintended consequences like barring minors from libraries and removing books of literary, educational, and
religious value. The bill is likely unconstitutional, over-broad, and unduly restricts the rights of adults to decide what their
children should be able to read - as well as older minors.

Gaylord Foxx
self
Richardson, TX

This should be left up to the parent. My concern is that it may prohibit age appropriate sex education.

Ann Bailey
My Family, Higher Education IT Technician
Fort Worth, TX

Parents- not the government- should determine what books are and are not appropriate for their own children to read. I am
appalled there is not even an option for parents to opt out of the restricted access for their own children.
Please protect Texas parent's rights, and vote "no" on HB 3225!

Erin Franklin
self
Dallas, TX

I am writing to you today to urge you to vote "No" for HB 3225. There no option on this bill for parents to have the right to
choose what books are not appropriate for their children, additionally this bill is quite vague in what it defines to be "sexually
explicit". I am concerned that this book will unfairly restrict access to books in public libraries. Due to its vague nature, it could
potentially restrict teens' access to sex education resources as it lets community members and lawmakers decide for themselves
what constitutes as explicit, which could be either very broad or very vague. Please vote no.

Brittany Payne
Self, Engineer and Mother
League City, TX

I would like to voice my concerns regarding HB 3225 and the lack of trust it puts in Texas parents. A popular talking point when
restricting information to children is that the government is "putting it back in the hands of the parents" but this bill seeks to do
the exact opposite by preventing parents from even being ABLE to give their child permission about what they do and do not read
at the library. My parents supported my love of reading from a young age and were always with me at the library, helping me find
books on topics I was interested in that were age appropriate. I was grades above my reading level, so that was no easy feat. I
want my son to be free to explore the WHOLE library, not just parts the Texas government deems acceptable and, frankly, I find
lacking. This bill mentions specifically "sexually explicit materials." Does this include books on going through puberty?
Resources for escaping abuse? Entire sub-genres of fantasy, romance, fiction, non-fiction? What is the limit? And why is the
Texas government the one to decide that and not the parents? Not only is this a gross overreach of government power, it will also
put a huge strain on already struggling libraries. Unless the government is going to give libraries additional funds to enforce this
law, it is not worth it- on moral, ethical, logical, and financial grounds. Trust Texas parents- and children. Thank you.

Cynthia Peet, Mrs

Self

Haslet, TX

Cynthia Peet

?12792 Taylor Frances Lane

?Haslet, Texas 76052

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?480-225-6552

04/11/2025

Chairman Todd Hunter?

House State Affairs Committee?

Texas House of Representatives

?P.O. Box 2910?

Austin, TX 78768-2910

RE: Opposition to HB 3225 – Restricting Access to Library Materials for Minors

Dear Chairman Hunter and Members of the House State Affairs Committee,

I am writing as a concerned Texan to express my strong opposition to House Bill 3225, which seeks to restrict access to materials deemed “sexually explicit” in municipal public libraries accessible to minors.

While I fully support protecting children from genuinely harmful content, I believe HB 3225 overreaches by using vague and overly broad language that could result in the censorship of valuable, age-appropriate literature, historical documents, health education resources, and works by marginalized authors. This bill risks silencing diverse voices and denying young people access to books that can support their development, understanding, and empathy.

Furthermore, HB 3225 places an unfair and unworkable burden on public librarians, who are already trained professionals capable of curating collections responsibly. Mandating annual reviews, responding to petitions within ten days, and threatening libraries with loss of funding and fines could cripple these vital community institutions and undermine public trust.

Public libraries have long served as safe, inclusive spaces for education, exploration, and free thought. Decisions about what children read should be made by parents and guardians—not by the government through sweeping, one-size-fits-all censorship policies.

I respectfully urge you to vote NO on HB 3225 and instead support policies that empower families and preserve intellectual freedom in our public libraries.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

?Cynthia Peet

Timothy Ruttan

Self, Physician

Austin, TX

As a parent of two children as well as a physician, I am writing today to urge you to strongly oppose Texas HB3225, which will be presented before your State Affairs committee on April 14, 2025. This bill is problematic because it attacks access to books in public libraries. HB3225 forbids municipal public libraries from allowing anyone under 18 to access “sexually explicit” materials without clearly defining “sexually explicit.”

In order to comply with this vague legislation, libraries would have to restrict anyone under 18 to children’s/teen/YA sections—they could not be allowed into the library’s sections for the general (adult) public, where they might encounter “sexually explicit” books. Second, it would restrict the books that can be made available in those children’s/teen/YA sections. No sex-ed books, no descriptions of “sexual contact” in YA novels meant for older teens. Art books would be at risk, as would innocent books like Eric Carle’s *Draw Me a Star* and Maurice Sendak’s *In the Night Kitchen*.

Additionally, small and rural libraries that do not have separate areas for children, teens, and adult library materials would not be able to properly serve the needs of all community members under this bill. I strongly urge you to vote against HB3225 and to protect my First Amendment freedom to access information as well as the right of all children to learn and be a part of the library and community.

Leslie Wright, Ms

self- book club leader

Katy, TX

You don’t know me and I don’t know you. I don’t know your children or anything about their lives. I’m not their legal guardian or yours. I’m not trying to parent your children. Please show me the same respect and stop trying to tell me which books are appropriate for my family.

Steven Cochrane

Self, software engineer

Austin, TX

I am an Austin resident and voter, and I oppose HB 3225. I have a six year-old daughter who I read to every night, and the books we read are all from our local Austin Public Library, Twin Oaks branch. Our public libraries are very important to us and to all the parents we know, so it deeply saddens me to see them under attack at both the federal and state level. Our libraries already have limited resources and many would not be able to adapt to these new laws, meaning the end result could be to bar minors from entering libraries, which is what happened after the very similar HB 710 in Idaho. If that happens here in Texas it will be a tragedy. We all benefit from a more educated society, so I urge you to not pass this bill. Thank you.

Louisa Ippolito

self, non-profit bookstore manager

Corsicana, TX

This is a broad brushstroke that can apply to everything from science books about insects and whales to books to *Kill a Mockingbird* to *100 Years of Solitude* to *Billy Has Two Dads*. You know that is the Truth. If you don't want your kids to read those books, fine. But do not prevent all teenagers or kids from reading. The Library in my small town was a lifesaver and opened up the world to me. Please reconsider the wording and ramifications of this bill.

Cynthia Smith

self/author

Denton, TX

This bill is too broad and takes a machete approach that fails to protect the reading, educational, and literacy needs of kids and teens as well as the parenting needs of families more broadly. If you are going to restrict young readers from going through or past books for grown-ups at the library to get to the kids and teen sections, then you need to increase funds to the libraries so that the staff can relocate the furniture, displays and books for young readers to the front of the library across from the check-out desk. Also, parents should be able to decide whether their own kids have access to library books or not. E.g., there may be a parent who wants to use an age-appropriate picture book to teach the parts of the body or explain the difference between "good" and "bad" touches, and the library should provide access to books to support that kind of responsible parenting.

Kristin Wright

self / Teacher Librarian

Nacogdoches, TX

Throughout the past few years as Republicans have set their sights on restricting our children's access to various books, we have been told that books being removed from public school libraries and classrooms are not book bans, because parents and students can find those books at their local public library. This bill, however, is proposing to restrict our kids' access to books in our local public libraries, too. Moreover, most of the bad bills concerning education and/or libraries coming out of this legislature have been under the guise of "parental choice", yet this bill does not even include an option for parents to opt out of the restricted access for their own children. Parents- not the government- should determine what books are and are not appropriate for their own children to read. Please protect Texas parent's rights, and vote "no" on HB 3225."

Amy Martin

self, writer

Dallas, TX

What is described as "sexually explicit materials" is not. What children see on television, even in daytime commercials, is far more provocative. Respect the librarians.

Claire Hill
Self, author
Houston, TX

I am writing today to urge you to strongly oppose Texas HB3225. This bill is problematic because it attacks access to books in public libraries.

I had a very high reading level as a kid. When I was in middle school, over one summer I decided to read all of the Sherlock Holmes books. I checked out all of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's novels and short stories--some of those short story collections were bricks--and read them all over a period of two weeks. I remember these two weeks as very formative and it sparked a love of classics and Victorian literature. I also learned to think critically about history and how certain people groups were depicted in the past and why that's not acceptable today, as well as many other topics.

HB3225 forbids municipal public libraries from allowing anyone under 18 to access "sexually explicit" materials without clearly defining "sexually explicit." In order to comply with this vague legislation, libraries would have to restrict anyone under 18 to children's/teen/YA sections—they could not be allowed into the library's sections for the general (adult) public, where they might encounter "sexually explicit" books. If this bill goes into effect, no kids like me would be able to encounter Sherlock Holmes or any other classics that were written for "adults" but are still accessible to younger readers. They would not have the learning opportunities I had and the chance for inner growth, as well as enjoying a really well written story.

Second, this bill would restrict the books that can be made available in those children's/teen/YA sections. No sex-ed books, at a crucial time when kids are trying to figure out what is happening to their bodies. No descriptions of "sexual contact" in YA novels meant for older teens--something that is a safe space to understand feelings and their consequences without acting on them. Art books would be at risk, as would innocent books like Eric Carle's Draw Me a Star and Maurice Sendak's In the Night Kitchen. Additionally, small and rural libraries that do not have separate areas for children, teens, and adult library materials would not be able to properly serve the needs of all community members under this bill.

Other points to consider: (1) it would be cumbersome and costly. (2) Any library who cannot enforce this rule or cannot modify their space would have to ban minors from the library. (3) For years we have been told that books being removed from public school libraries and classrooms are not book bans; that they can be found at the public library. This bill will make such claims patently false. (4) There is no option for parents to opt their children out. (5) Teens could not access books for English classes like Moby-Dick, Frankenstein, Great Expectations, etc.

The responsibility for what a child reads or doesn't read belongs to parents, not in the hands of the government. I strongly urge you to vote against HB3225 and to protect my First Amendment freedom to access information.

Theresa Garcia
Self - Librarian
Fort Worth, TX

The decision to restrict access to information for minors should be the domain of their parents or guardians, not the legislature. Under this law, a child couldn't browse and check out Judy Blume's "Are You There God? It's Me, Margaret", even if their parent says they can. Libraries would not be allowed to display or hold it anywhere a minor can potentially reach or see it. Any fiction or nonfiction book that talks about sex for any age will need to be locked behind closed stacks, making it burdensome for the public and staff to access and restricting freedom of movement across one of the few free public spaces many families have. Librarians are trained professionally to provide access to age-appropriate materials of substantial literary value. Trust them to do their jobs. Trust families to know what their children consume and help them make appropriate choices. Libraries are a vital resource for communities and for Democracy. They provide access to so many social services and materials that help patrons of all ages better their lives and their minds. We should be supporting and uplifting them, not making their mission harder. Thank you.

Haley Campbell

Self - mother

Austin, TX

I am a Texan and a mom and I am furious that the State wants control over the material my child can and cannot access in a public library. The Texas legislature should have ZERO oversight into what content our children can access in our libraries. It is a massive overreach of governmental authority and an encroachment on my rights as a parent. I am the ultimate arbiter of the content my child sees, and restricting certain content to certain populations in our public library system, which is one of the last bastions of free of knowledge for ALL Texans, is an infringement of my parental rights and represents an erosion of free speech that should be concerning to everyone. Decisions about what content ends up on library shelves, and in which sections, is a decision that should remain with trained, professional librarians in conversation with their specific, local communities, NOT government officials with no insight into those community needs and who are obviously trying, in this case, to restrict free speech and make decisions that MUST be left to parents.