

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMPILATION OF PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Submitted to the Committee on Public Education
For SB 13

Compiled on: Thursday, May 8, 2025 10:57 AM

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

Hearing Date: May 6, 2025 8:00 AM

Anne Wolfe
Self
SEGUIN, TX

This bill is wrong. Book banning is not the answer.

Kimberlee Barnwell, Ms.
self retired
Amarillo, TX

In Amarillo Tx, we just had a review for 3 books for our City Library in which I saw contents of this book where it showed (in a drawing - not a photography) of anal sex between 2 males. Why are we not looking at our laws about lewdness? I googled it and the Texas law on the books said any description of genitalia. I guess we definitely need specifics. The supporters of such books said young people need to know about such books so they know they are not strange. Okay, fine. Let the parents of these children buy the books on Amazon. We don't need them in our public libraries and public schools. Just sayin'.

Gina Mateer

Self

Austin, TX

Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in strong opposition to Senate Bill 13, which proposes the creation of local school library “advisory councils” and expands so-called “parental rights” to influence school library material selection.

While parental engagement in education is essential and welcome, SB 13 opens the door to censorship, political interference, and the erosion of trust in trained educators and librarians. This bill shifts decision-making authority from qualified professionals to advisory bodies vulnerable to ideological agendas, potentially leading to the removal or suppression of diverse perspectives and educationally valuable content.

I urge the committee to consider the following concerns:

- **Undermining Library Professionals:** Certified school librarians are trained to curate age-appropriate, developmentally suitable, and educationally enriching materials. SB 13 devalues that expertise by inserting lay committees into complex selection and review processes.
- **Risk of Politicized Censorship:** Advisory councils, influenced by a vocal minority, could suppress books that reflect the experiences of LGBTQ+ students, students of color, or those from marginalized backgrounds. This threatens intellectual freedom and equal access to information.
- **Chilling Effect on Education:** The climate of fear created by bills like SB 13 discourages educators and librarians from providing inclusive, representative materials. Students are deprived of literature that broadens understanding, empathy, and critical thinking.
- **Parental Choice Already Exists:** Parents already have the right to guide their own child’s reading through opt-out systems or communication with teachers and librarians. SB 13 goes further—granting some parents the ability to restrict access for all students, which is neither fair nor constitutional.

Texas schools should be places where education, not ideology, leads decision-making. Instead of burdening school staff with bureaucratic review panels and vague new mandates, we should be investing in library resources, training, and collaboration among educators, families, and students.

For these reasons, I respectfully ask the committee to vote NO on SB 13.

Michael Belsick

Fredericksburg Tea Party

Fredericksburg, TX

FOR SB 13 Another important bill to protect kids.

Maria Person

self, Director

Austin, TX

This bill is unnecessary interference in school libraries and more work that will not improve children's education. Please oppose the bill and do not create more laws that restrict the freedom to learn.

RAY JOHNSTON

Ray Johnston Counseling Services

NACOGDOCHES, TX

I strongly oppose this legislation. Libraries are already under attack and are the vanguards in our society against fascism and dictatorship. Censorship (which is what this bill is about) is the hallmark of democracy in decline. I agree that we need common sense rules prohibiting certain sexual material but SB 13 goes WAY beyond that. Vote NO.

Christina Thomas

Self

Plano, TX

Violates intellectual freedom of the students.

Tanya Guthrie

Self / Retired

Austin, TX

I am against SB 13.

Ginger Cargile

Self

Abilene, TX

This bill would be onerous and leave book selection to unqualified people. You must vote no.

Librarians are professional readers. They read professional reviews upon selection of materials, requiring well-written resources. As the mother of a middle school librarian, I have seen her read thousands of middle school books and young adult books and have heard her talk about making sure students find books they will enjoy. She's taught over 30 years and knows books and students; after all, she's served literally thousands upon thousands of students. She gives me a lot of books to read that are middle school books. They are fantastic! She truly is an expert. A library committee and the school board do not have this knowledge or expertise. I hear people talk about books and I realize how misinformed they are. If people who don't read and rely on misinformation were to serve on a board, the school children will not be so disadvantaged. They need to work with hundreds of students and read hundreds of books a year.

Furthermore, my daughter reminds me that the library has no required reading. Parents could provide reading materials to their students. They could also log in. She showed me how students log in and parents can see the books the students have checked out. She wants students and parents to be happy; she doesn't want to offend anyone. She told me about a Mormon parent several years ago who had talked to her daughter about what the expectations were for the books brought home. The young lady talked to my daughter and they started finding other books together to make everyone comfortable. There have been more kids from the same family, and the parents are happy knowing that the librarian works with their children and their values.

Librarians serve. My daughter works evenings and weekends just reading. Reading middle school and some high school books to help the high school librarians. I see few people work that many hours for their jobs. She serves those students and the students benefit. This onerous bill would result in over-reach and keep parents from being parents and professionals from doing their jobs. Please serve the students; vote no.

Eileen Gregory, Dr.

Self

Dallas, TX

Hi, my name is Eileen Gregory, from Dallas. I am a retired college literature teacher. SB 13, which censors the content of public school libraries in terms of "community values" is very deeply misguided. It takes control of books and reading away from taxpayers, parents, teachers, librarians, and students and puts that control in the hands of arbitrarily chosen and unqualified "volunteers." How can this be right? They supposedly will be making decisions based on "community values." That is so vague and liable to prejudice and distortion and ignorance that it would possibly knock out most of the classics of western literature and philosophy and history. How can the Bible pass these censors with all the indecency of the Old Testament? This is a ridiculously primitive proposal of censorship. It surely seems as though no one has given it any thought. How can it possibly be enforced? I beg you please do not make the terrible error of injuring those like parents and teachers who have roles of responsibility for their children's well-being and moral and intellectual formation, but who would largely oppose the narrow moral judgments of a few detached and unqualified "advisors."

Carolyn Nini
Self
Shenandoah, TX

I am in favor of SB 13. The original bill for removing sexual, pornographic materials/books was an abject failure with loop holes allowing the books to remain in the schools. Get this problem fixed so we never see this again.

Cathy Hooper
Self-retired
Henderson, TX

Hire good librarians and leave them alone. Don't police their every move. This law is frivolous.

Amanda Cargile
SELF
Lubbock, TX

This bill would be onerous and leave book selection to unqualified people. You must vote no.

Librarians are professional readers. They read professional reviews upon selection of materials, requiring well-written resources. As a librarian, I have read thousands of middle school books and young adult books and have talked to thousands upon thousands of middle and high school students. I am an expert, fitting each book to each kid, serving every child every day. A library committee and the school board do not have this knowledge or expertise. Relying on passages pulled from books and calling the book pornographic when they are merely uncomfortable to them personally is wrong. If people who don't read and rely on misinformation were to serve on a board, the school children will not be served. Read thousands of books; talk to thousands of kids.

Furthermore, the library has **NO REQUIRED READING**. Parents could tell their student that they will provide every book for them: do not check out any book from the school library. In 19-20 years of being a librarian, I've had less than 10 complaints because I fit the book to the child. If parents are concerned, I listen and start working with the students to find books that they and their parents will agree on. You'd be surprised how rarely this happens; parents generally are thrilled that their students are reading and compliment me and our teachers.

Having a library committee and the school board approve books comes between the parent and the student/child. That is **NOT** our place as educators. I tell my students with each visit to pick books based upon their family beliefs. If they start reading a book and it doesn't match their family's values, close the book and return it. Furthermore, parents can turn on the computer at any time and see what their student has checked out. There are no secrets. We have no intention of creating discord with any person, family, or group. After all, what offends one family does not offend another.

We librarians must serve **EVERY** student. The librarians are in the trenches with the kids. We are very good at helping kids become lifelong readers which translates into lifelong learners. This onerous bill would result in over-reach and keep parents from being parents and professionals from doing their jobs. A no is the only vote that gives parents rights over their children's reading and allows librarians to spread joy with books. I'll conclude with something an eighth grader said to me last week. We were talking about books she was reading (she's reading some adult books that we don't carry in the library because we only have books for the ages that we serve), and she said, "I wasn't a reader until this library." I built that library with those books by listening and talking and reading. Please serve the students; vote no.

Roseann Clark

myself /my grandchildren in Texas schools preK-HS

Fort Worth, TX

This bill clarifies definitions of harmful, indecent or profane materials.

Allows parent led library advisory councils to review content

Allows parents to access& restrict their children's library materials

Restricts challenged materials until reviewed

Aligns w/legal standards and Federal laws like CIPA

GET SB-13 out of committee & to a vote!!

John Kelley, Mr

Self

Bayview, TX

Our children are the strength of our families, Texas and the USA. We need to make sure that the stay provides the best material for their success . No need of those with fostering an agenda of misinformation, hate and self destruction to pack the book shelves with materials that hinder the students progress. Please vote for SB 13. Thank you jek

Susan Anderson, Dr.

self

Benbrook, TX

I strongly oppose Senate Bill 13, which would undermine the role of public schools as spaces for learning and exploration. By forcing vendors to rate books for “sexually explicit content,” SB 13 creates an unnecessary and burdensome system that opens the door to sweeping censorship. It’s a book ban, plain and simple—one that targets stories about marginalized individuals and communities under the misleading guise of parental control.

Parents already have the right to guide their children’s reading. SB 13 goes far beyond that—it could empower politically-motivated advisory councils to control what every child can access. This risks silencing the voices and stories that help students feel seen, valued, and connected. Every child deserves access to books that reflect who they are and introduce them to people and experiences different from their own. Libraries should not become battlegrounds for political agendas. Educators and librarians—trusted professionals—should not be turned into censorship police. Instead of supporting students and educators, SB 13 isolates, shames, and erases.

If lawmakers truly cared about children and education, they would be increasing funding for schools and raising teacher pay, not pushing divisive policies that harm students and undermine learning. I urge members of the House Public Education Committee to reject Senate Bill 13. Texas students deserve better than censorship and fear. They deserve the freedom to read, learn, and grow in inclusive schools that reflect the full diversity of our communities.

Gaylyn DeVine

Self/Business Owner, SREC SD11

Pearland, TX

In favor- every parent must be allowed complete access to any materials their child is being taught or has access to. Keeping secrets from parents is completely unacceptable and creates an appearance that is OK to not have parents engaged in the school and learning process. Please vote in favor of SB13 and trust parents to have access to information on their child.

Kristie Rutledge

Self

Rockport, TX

Chair and Committee Members,

I am writing to express my strong support for SB 13 to give parents input and tools to remove obscene materials from school libraries. Thank you for passing SB 13 quickly and getting on the House calendar.

Respectfully,

Kristie Rutledge

Lindsey Ramirez

Self

Austin, TX

I oppose this bill as it restricts the rights of the parents of most students for the judgements of a few. I am also concerned about measures included in the bill that slow and complicate libraries' purchasing processes. Please vote against moving this bill out of committee.

Whitney Kenney

Self

Celina, TX

I am in support of SB 13. It is a step in the right direction to protecting Texas Kids from obscene library resources.

Tom Glass

Self, Retired

McDade, TX

I support SB 13. A society that won't protect its children does not have much of a future.

Laura Giles

Self

Lucas, TX

I am in support of this bill because it requires districts to be transparent to parents and taxpayers on what is being brought into schools and who is reviewing and approving it. I only wish it would cover existing possession of titles and had an enforcement mechanism to make districts comply with law.

AJ Juraska

Self, Seminarian

Austin, TX

I am a seminary student living in Austin. While it is written to sound good, HB 3225 is harmful to our communities because it can lead to the banning of books that are appropriately informative and educational for children.

My religion, Unitarian Universalism, along with the United Church of Christ, have created a curriculum called Our Whole Lives, which is used to teach young people a faith-based understanding of their bodies. This curriculum uses age-appropriate, parent-approved information for the youth. I worry that bills such as this one would effectively ban books that get used in thoughtful, faith-based curricula such as Our Whole Lives.

Additionally, bills like these have been used by others to ban books that have content about LGBTQIA+ lives. It is important and life-affirming for young people to have access to a diversity of stories.

Charlie Anderson
SELF, EDUCATOR
Taylor, TX

Vote NO. Parents already have the right to prohibit their student from checking out specific materials at their libraries.

Barton Hejny
Self - attorney
Austin, TX

This bill is another attempt to strip personal freedoms from the people of Texas. There is no need for library advisory councils to control what reading materials are available for public consumption.

Alyssa Gilden, Dr.
Self, child psychologist
Austin, TX

I am the parent of children in public elementary school in Texas. I am also a child psychologist and a school psychologist. I am an avid reader, and I volunteer weekly in the library of my children's elementary school. Countless research has demonstrated the incredible positive and productive outcomes of fostering a love for learning by letting children read. We know reading a variety of books on a variety of subjects leads to the best outcomes for children as they become adults and to the creation of a citizenry. I implore you to leave the selection of library books to the professionals who work in our schools. Librarians are trained and hired to work with children and books. Please leave the selection of books up to them.

Diana OConnor, Ms
Self/ retired Texas public school librarian
Dallas, TX

While HB 900 is still undergoing the complex and laborious process of implementation, SB 13 will continue to mire our students' access to current materials that they WANT to read. Before you make any decisions, please gather validated statistics about how many books (print and online) are actually checked out of a school library. As a recently retired librarian at a 6th-12th grade single gender Texas public school, I have the statistics to show how dramatically the percentage of students reading books for pleasure has dropped precipitously (this particular population are all high functioning female students). Eliminating books that certified Masters degreed school librarians have ordered for their students, knowing what they want to read, ensuring that the books are appropriate for the age level, and have received the two required positive reviews from the authoritative school library journals, because a parent or group of parents (without the professional knowledge or background of a Masters of Library Science school librarian (who also must have at least two years of teaching experience before getting certified) only ensures that you have reduced students' choices in what they read. You have guaranteed ONLY that they will be even less likely to read books, thus seek a source of entertainment on their phones from social media. If you believe that is an optimal choice for students, navigating the wide-open world of online solicitation, porn, bullying and intimidation, then you are sticking your head in the sand. I wish I could say that the students of today are lined up to read all those censored books, conniving ways to get them into their hands and spend hours reading, but it's not the case. LOOK around you - what is in their/ our hands at all times? It's not a book.

Henry Bohnert, Mr.
Self - retired SB
Brazoria, TX

I'm for this bill. Pornography does not belong in publicly funded libraries especially not accessible to minors.

Margie Cleere
Self
Whitehouse, TX

Please keep our children safe from harm in our schools, including the content in the library. We need parents to have a say.

John van Compernelle

Self

Mineola, TX

I support this bill. No library should allow access by children to explicit sexual material.
If the librarians can't determine that on their own the this legislature needs to do it on behalf of parents.

Gregory Taylor

Self

Texarkana, TX

I SUPPORT SB 13. In this time when schools seek to replace parents, it is critical parents have a mechanism to protect their children from material they consider inappropriate.

Tara Swan

Self / Bookkeeper

Austin, TX

Books provide an opportunity to create empathy, imagination, and encourage a person's growth and mindset through the written word. By censoring this, we take away a person's right to grow and develop opinions and self expression. Books are like history - when given a chance, they can teach one to think and learn. By taking that away, you create a bigger reliance on tools such as social media and stunt a mind's growth. "A mind needs books like a sword needs a wet stone."

Bridget Brame

self

Georgetown, TX

My family and friends STRONGLY SUPPORT this bill. This bill will fix some of the gaps left by HB 900 the READER Act from last session.

Tracy Porter

Self

Allen, TX

Librarians have degrees which certify their ability to manage the content of libraries. We need to respect their credentials and trust them to populate libraries. Any parents who want to limit what their child has access to should sign a form that prohibits their child from accessing the library without being accompanied by their parent (or a designated representative). Stop imposing restrictive measures on all school children just because one parent (or a small subset of parents) objects.

Alexandria Frossard

self, teacher

Kyle, TX

To be a librarian, you must hold a Masters in Library Sciences. The creation of an "advisory council" seeks to undermine the education and professionalism of librarians across the state and grossly limits their autonomy in restocking books and buying materials for the other spaces within the library. This would also slow the ordering process and impact the ability of classroom teachers to deliver high quality instruction in a timely manner and remove the student's voice from their education. In no other field do politicians try to meddle and control (and in the name of protecting children, no less) more than they do in public education. By voting for this bill to pass, you are telling librarians, teachers, and anyone in public education that they are not capable of doing their jobs without federal oversight and micromanaging.

Steven Deline

self

Austin, TX

As written, if a private school/supplier/alternative wanted to harm a public school library in order to increase school attrition rates they would easily be able to use this bill in order to accomplish this goal.

This bill is so vague & ambiguous you would be able to have literally every single book either written, digital, or auditory removed from a public school.

Digital media & printed media can be proven to cause harm to eye sight due to prolonged strain on optical nerves & muscles per Section 33.021(d)(ii). Same with auditory devices depending on the dB level the devices are capable of emitting. This would force all "Library Material" to be removed per definitions.

Section 33.020(2) is too vague of a definition. The epidermis(your skin; an organ) excretes sweat, pheromones, & oils. Due to this, you cannot depict a human in a public library. This doesn't even allow for a Miller Test to occur due to lack of understanding of biology or the law from the author.

Sec. 33.020(4) is lifted from the FCC. I just want everyone to know the author used ChatGPT—or another LLM, Claude would be better at this—to write this.

Sec. 33.023 & Sec. 33.024 is a good idea. Parents should be able to involve themselves in their children's lives & aid with their education journey. This would be good for social learning with parental involvement & with mental well-being due to the benefits of attachment & bonding concepts with early childhood development.

A library advisory council of parents with no representation of stakeholders with expertise in education or childhood development lacks understanding of the learning process in humans has the potential for disastrous results. Parents being more involved can be a great thing, but if this legislature wishes better outcomes for public school children there must be qualified professional representation.

Stop being weird.

Eve Panzer

Self Librarian

Austin, TX

I am writing today as your constituent to stand in opposition to Senate Bill 13 in Texas. SB13 not only infringes on my rights as a taxpayer, but it is also an overreach of governmental power. It takes away individual freedoms from parents, students, community members, and school board trustees to review and regulate school library materials and instead gives the authority to a small group of politically appointed School Library Advisory Council members.

These members would likely not be trained library professionals or teachers who are qualified to make library curation decisions. In fact, SB13 does not even require all council members to have children enrolled in the public school system the committee allegedly represents. "Library curation and collection development decisions should be left to trained librarians with input from a variety of local stakeholders.

Under SB13, School Library Advisory Councils would have the power to remove library materials from school libraries that are inconsistent with "community values." The values of certain community members should not be prioritized above others. For these reasons, I ask that you keep politics out of our schools by strongly opposing SB13 in Texas.

Perla Hopkins
Self/Mother/Educator/Veteran
Leander, TX

Honorable Chair Buckley, Vice Chair Bernal and Members of the TX House Public Education Committee,

I strongly support SB 13 and I ask that you consider this important bill as favorable, and pass it out of committee. I truly appreciate your service to the millions of Texas children and your dedication to public schools.

Your partner in education,
Perla Hopkins, MA Secondary Ed

Susan Conway
Self
Bogata, TX

Please pass this bill. Texas children to deserve to have a childhood! Our children shouldn't be exposed to inappropriate materials in any form.

Cynthia Daniels
Self
Mansfield, TX

I am writing in strong opposition to SB 13, which seeks to restrict school library materials and mandate new advisory councils under the guise of "parental rights." While parents absolutely have a role in their child's education, this bill goes far beyond empowering parents; it opens the door to censorship, undermines the expertise of professional librarians, and threatens students' access to diverse and inclusive educational materials.

SB 13 places vague, ideologically driven constraints on library content, which could lead to the removal of books that reflect the lived experiences of LGBTQ+ students, students of color, and other marginalized communities. By mandating local advisory councils and allowing for increased parental veto power, it encourages politicized interference in curriculum and libraries rather than promoting educational equity and intellectual freedom.

Our public schools are meant to serve all students, not just those whose identities or values match the majority. Students deserve access to age-appropriate, diverse, and challenging materials that help them grow as informed, empathetic, and critical thinkers. SB 13 would not protect children; it would silence stories, stigmatize identities, and erode public trust in our educators.

I urge you to reject SB 13 and instead support policies that uphold professional standards, educational freedom, and every student's right to see themselves and others reflected in the books on their shelves.

Gail Apple
Republican women Gregg co
Longview select, TX

we need advisory boards and councils for our school library. And the parental rights to look into the public libraries and the schools, especially into the children's materials.

aileen boone, dr
self
san antonio, TX

I am a grandmother of two young boys in the Texas public school system. I wholeheartedly support this bill. I believe accountability is necessary to make schools follow the laws.

I went to my local school board (NEISD San Antonio) in the past year with a list of books I felt here inappropriate for elementary - high school. The school did remove several of the books. These books are finding their way into the libraries and I believe this bill will help and allow parental involvement in this issue.

Thank you for your tireless effort to keep our young impressionable minds safe.

Minda Anderson
Self
Austin, TX

I'm a fifth generation Texan and a school librarian here in Texas. I am testifying on behalf of myself, my students, and Texas children. This fall I was talking with one of my students and she shared that if she couldn't get the books she wanted to read from the school library then she wouldn't be able to read them. We are her only source for books. She is who I work for. She and so many other Texas children who don't have access to books on their own are who we're talking about today. I have many concerns about this bill, some of which you can read in my written testimony.

One concern is how slow the process is to purchase new books. My district added 30,526 materials to 116 schools last year. How can a group of 5 volunteers possibly review and then approve or deny all these? Once they do, the school board is then required to post the materials proposed to be added for 30 days. Why not 3 days, like all other school board public notices?

I recently spoke with a school board member and she suggested making the advisory council optional. If a school district decides their current process is working well then they can decide to trust their librarians and their expertise. Another school board member from a district near Houston had concerns about the council not representing all areas of the district. One group of parents could decide for all other groups what their children could or could not read.

My priority is getting books into kids' hands. This bill will severely restrict that. I don't understand why in a state with one of the lowest literacy rates in the country, we are talking about restricting books for our kids.

Please vote against SB 13. Thank you

Deborah Leimbach
Moms for Liberty-Comal County
New Braunfels, TX

Chairman and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony in strong support of Senate Bill 13, which seeks to reinforce and clarify the removal of sexually explicit, vulgar, and developmentally inappropriate materials from Texas public school libraries. As Chair of Moms for Liberty – Comal County, I represent a growing number of parents and community members who are deeply concerned about the content accessible to children in our schools. While House Bill 900, the READER Act, was a critical step forward, its implementation revealed a troubling pattern: several school districts either ignored the law or employed tactics to delay compliance. The lack of accountability significantly blunted the impact of the legislation.

SB 13 is a welcome and necessary progression, and it corrects another significant issue: it restores the right of any taxpayer within the school district—not just parents—to request the reconsideration of school library materials. SB 13 provides a vital and commendable provision. After the passage of HB 900, many school districts—under the direction and influence of the Texas Association of School Boards (TASB)—rewrote their library policies to eliminate this ability. As a result, taxpayers who fund these public institutions were denied any say in how their dollars were used regarding student-accessible materials. Newly written public school library policies amounted to taxation without representation, leaving many community members silenced in the decision-making process directly affecting local schools.

To ensure SB 13 achieves its full potential, I respectfully urge the committee to include civil penalties for school districts that fail to comply. Without enforceable consequences, noncompliance will persist, just as it did under HB 900. Recommended enforcement mechanisms include:

- Financial penalties for districts that fail to act within a defined timeframe;
- Withholding of specific state education funds for repeated or willful violations;
- Public reporting of noncompliant districts to ensure transparency and accountability.

The penalties stress fairness and due process, but they are essential. Laws without enforcement are merely suggestions.

Moms for Liberty – Comal County stands with the Legislature in advocating for safe, academically focused, and age-appropriate school environments. We applaud SB 13's protections, particularly its restoration of taxpayer rights, and encourage the inclusion of civil penalties to guarantee meaningful enforcement.

Thank you for your time, leadership, and continued commitment to Texas families and communities.

Respectfully,
Deborah Leimbach

Chelsea Williams
Self
FORT WORTH, TX

OPPOSE.

Marsha Musick
Self
Denton, TX

I support SB13 to protect our children

Auburn Rutledge
Self
Austin, TX

I'm leaving a comment in regards to SB13, the Library Advisory Committee bill. As a Texas voter and school library supporter, I am asking you to oppose this bill because it would give a few politically appointed parents decision-making power over what books all students in a community have access to. I would like my district to focus on improving the educational experience of all of our children, instead of worrying about controlling library books. This is a blatant attack of our children's education and represents politically-driven censorship. Also, Texas already passed HB 900- a school library bill- that school districts are still working to figure out and implement. We don't need another one. Please ask the Representative to vote "no" on SB 13 if it comes up for a committee vote. Thank you.

Jeanne Dupre' Weido, Mrs.

SELF

Houston, TX

My name is Jeanne Dupre' Weido. I am writing to ask you to PLEASE vote NO on SB 13! Librarians and educators shouldn't be forced to act as censorship police. They should be trusted to guide students, not having to risk their careers for offering honest, inclusive learning. Lawmakers pushing SB 13 aren't protecting children. They're policing identity, targeting families, and fueling a culture war.

If politicians actually cared about education, they'd be funding our schools and raising teacher pay, not pushing fear and censorship by banning books to score points with extremists.

I thank you for your time and for VOTING NO on SB 13!

Heather Jones

Self, stay at home parent

Round Rock, TX

As a Texan parent and enthusiastic school library supporter, I am asking you to oppose this bill. I disagree with giving a few politically appointed parents the power to choose what books my children and other Texas students can or cannot read. Can we focus on helping students achieve better math and reading scores instead of needlessly trying to control library books even more? Please vote "no" on SB 13 if it comes up for a committee vote. Thank you!

Elizabeth Scanlon

Self

Austin, TX

As a Texas voter, parent and children's author, I am hugely concerned about SB13 and ask that you please oppose its passage. This bill would hamper the freedom to read and restrict decision making by parents, students and professional librarians in favor of a politically appointed committee with no particular expertise in children's literature. As well, the terminology of the bill is dangerously vague and would irreparably harm not just Texas school libraries, but also the vital, resourced educational efforts happening school wide. Please stand up for Texas schools and the literacy -- vote "no" on SB 13 if it comes up for a committee vote. Thank you.

Irma Sandate

self

New Braunfels, TX

Good afternoon, please accept these comments in OPPOSITION OF SB13. As a retired educator and school administrator, I know and can speak from firsthand experience the importance of libraries in public schools. I also know firsthand the training librarians receive in maintaining the integrity of materials contained within the four walls of the public school library. Public school students are taught how to read by certified teachers. Librarians (also certified) then help direct students to book choices based on the curiosity of the student. Curiosity is how we ALL learn. SB 13 is a means to kill curiosity of public school students. We ALL have choices. This includes parents. If a parent has an objection to any books accessed by their child, then THAT parent can express it to the school and the school's certified librarian. Books will not be forced upon any child in a public school. Our certified staff is there to listen to all concerns and will act accordingly when concerns are received. We do NOT need a law or regulation limiting options in a public school library. We do NOT need a law or regulation killing curiosity.

Christen George-McFerrin

Self

Houston, TX

As a parent in Spring Branch ISD, I understand how hard librarians work. I trust them to select age appropriate books for their libraries. Most importantly, I believe it is my responsibility and my right as a parent to support freedom of speech. I consider it an overstep of legislative duty to limit what public schools may have within their libraries. Please do not vote in support of this bill.

Melissa Grzybowski

self

Pflugerville, TX

Please vote no on SB 13. The establishment of a library advisory council will take away the first amendment rights of students who wish to see themselves and others accurately portrayed in literature. Aside from the fact that school districts already have guidelines to follow from HB 900, this bill hurts districts, students and parents who are struggling as it is to improve basic reading and math scores.

Peggie Harrington, Ms

Self and Liberty and Justice

Fort Worth, TX

I endorse SB 13 by Paxton in it's entirely. Our children (I am a parent, grandparent, and great grandparent). Children are impressable at any age, but especially when they enter PreK or Kindergarden. As they mature, learning to read and think critically, it is important to me that their thouthgt processes are based on American values and principles defined by America's founding fathers. And that the books used for teaching or leasure reading provides a balanced thesis of the rights and wrongs being provided. Texans will benefit from an advisory counsel made up of educators, parents and citizens living in the respective school districts who share the desire to raise our children to be responsible citizens who demonstrate character, ethical behavior and accountability to their parents, their educators, the rule of law and their creator. In my opinion Texan families will benefit from educational institutions that promote these values, Especially public school institutions funded by Texas tax dollars.

Alexia Swanepoel

Self

Anna, TX

This is all about government censorship and overreach rather than allowing librarians who are trained in K-12 education decide what books and materials are best in their district libraries. Parents have the opportunity to censor their own children's reading material if they find anything uncomfortable just like I, as a parent, had the opportunity to sign a waiver to provide a waiver allowing my child to read anything at the school library. Legislators have no right to tell me or my children what they can or can't read. Frankly, the more you opt for them NOT to read something, the more parents like myself will purposely seek out that book to see what the fuss is all about. Perhaps there are other matters you should be concerned about like our President posing as the Pope.

Martha Shoultz

Partners for Ethical Care

DALLAS, TX

Please support SB 13 to stop the grooming of Texas children by industries that promote pornography, sex trafficking, "gender transition" and sex toys, and stop the sexualization of our children. SB13 bill will clarify the material that may be removed from public school libraries and will ensure that parents have a say in what their kids are exposed to at school that may be extremely age-inappropriate.

Elizabeth Johnson

self

Round Rock, TX

I oppose SB 13. I believe that school libraries should be free from censorship. Students will thrive when they have access to a wide range of reading materials. Librarians are trained professionals and do not need additional advisory boards controlling how they serve their schools.

Nelda Reid
Self
Klondike, TX

SB 13 is a school library bill that has the potential to devastate our public school libraries by introducing new overly-broad categories of prohibited books and placing purchasing and reconsideration oversight into the hands of a few politically appointed community member volunteers.

As a (parent/Texan/voter) and school library supporter, I am asking you to oppose this bill because it would give a few politically appointed parents decision making power over what books all students in a community have access to. I would like my district to focus on improving math and reading scores instead of worrying about controlling library books. Also, Texas already passed HB 900- a school library bill- that school districts are still working to figure out and implement- so we don't need another one.

Roxanne Crowe
Self
San Antonio, TX

Senate Bill 13 is an all-out attack on truth, freedom, and the right of every child to see themselves in the books they read. SB 13 empowers political appointees and bad actors to decide what our kids can and can't read. It's censorship, plain and simple, targeting LGBTQIA+ youth and communities of color under the false banner of "parental control." It also is an all-out attack on truth, freedom, and the right of every child to see themselves in the books they read. Nothing about this law actually protects children.

Farley Ong
Self
San Antonio, TX

Of course this is a pig in a poke for Texas considering who is sponsoring this bill.

If you don't want tie kids reading certain material don't let them.

One document that should be forever removed from the purview of any child is the Texas State Constitution which backs slavery.

Laticia Rivera
Self
Hutto, TX

Even though you all seem to have your minds made up regardless of what we the people offer as public testimony I am asking you to vote in favor of this bill. I was able to have All Boys Aren't Blue removed from Hutto ISD libraries after a level 2 grievance. Now that you all have forced SB 2 through despite hours of public testimony in opposition to it from mostly conservative parents such as myself, I hope you will continue to do what's right for the remaining 98% of Texas students that are being served in public schools. Offering my support for this bill for what it's worth.

Christian Gonzalez
Self
Houston, TX

I am firmly against this bill because of its broadness to define the catalog of books that apparently require oversight. Not only that but such measures could harm the valuable information that reaches adults, adolescents, and children. I do not believe that the supporters of this bill have that in mind as they attempt to paint books as obscene over a few lines or sections of a book without viewing the whole of it. Most book banners do not even take the time to carefully read the books they're against, let alone digesting their themes. Books make multiple communities feels seen.

SHUT DOWN THIS BILL AND ITS HARMFUL RHETORIC.

Toni Hellums
Self - contract labor
Bandera, TX

I am in support of Senate Bill 13. The State of Texas has enshrined access to public education into our Constitution to train them up be wise individuals who bring prosperity to future generations. In doing so, we as adults are entrusted to protect and ensure that the children are protected from people who wish to recreate those same children into their image by exploiting them through pornography and various types of “re-education, often accompanied with physical, mental, emotional and sexual abuse. This must stop immediately. This Bill brings to light the accountability in our schools and public libraries that must be taken in order for the children of Texas to be protected. Parents must be able to freely inspect and reject visual and audio material that is set before their children. The State of Texas must recognize and reinforce parental rights and responsibilities to prevent the exposure of sexual exploitation to their children, all in the name of “equal access” to these subjective experiences that some have deemed “reasonable”.

Please pass Senate Bill 13 for the children’s sake.

Michele Beard
self
Richmond, TX

I am writing today to express my opposition to Senate Bill 13 in Texas. SB13 not only infringes on my rights as a taxpayer, but it is also an overreach of governmental power. It takes away individual freedoms from parents, students, community members, and school board trustees to review and regulate school library materials and instead gives the authority to a small group of politically appointed School Library Advisory Council members.

These members would likely not be trained library professionals or teachers who are qualified to make library curation decisions. In fact, SB13 does not even require all council members to have children enrolled in the public school system the committee allegedly represents. Library curation and collection development decisions should be left to trained librarians with input from a variety of local stakeholders.

Under SB13, School Library Advisory Councils would have the power to remove library materials from school libraries that are inconsistent with “community values.” The values of certain community members should not be prioritized above others. For these reasons, I ask that you keep politics out of our schools by strongly opposing SB13 in Texas.

Kimberly Cothran

self

Katy, TX

My name is Kim Cothran, and I am a constituent from Katy. I am a parent of 3 children in Katy ISD, and I also volunteer in the school library every week.

I am writing to urge you to vote NO on SB 13. I'm concerned about this bill because I believe it will significantly reduce the availability of diverse and quality content in our school libraries.

The bill would ban from school libraries books that contain "indecent or profane content." However, it does not clearly define what constitutes "indecent or profane," leaving this interpretation to subjective viewpoints. Individual parents have different standards regarding content appropriateness, and therefore, decisions about what books a child should access should remain with each individual parent. Parent choice should mean each parent makes decisions for their own child, not that a small group of parents determines what's available to all children.

SB 13 also calls for creation of local school library advisory councils. In Katy ISD, we already have a council that reviews all books before they enter the library. As a result, we experience significant delays in receiving books. This year, my daughter's school library did not have access to the award-winning Texas Bluebonnet books because they had not yet been approved by the council—reviewing 20+ books can take an entire school year! As a parent, I want my daughter to have access to this high-level, rigorous material. The decision about which books are available in the library should be entrusted to qualified professionals: librarians, educators, and principals. The decision about which books are accessible to my specific child should be mine alone. There are better ways to protect parental rights regarding book access. Parents could be notified about which books their children check out, if they choose this option. Parents could receive information about required reading and have alternatives if they don't approve of assigned materials. However, allowing a small number of parents or community members to control which books are permitted in the library actually diminishes parents' rights to ensure their children have access to a variety of quality materials. I hope you understand how these restrictive processes impact students' access to quality books. In our technological age, it is essential that our children have access to diverse, engaging reading materials that foster critical thinking and a love of learning. I would appreciate hearing your position on this bill. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Kim Cothran

kim.cothran@gmail.com

Kevin M. Jackson Jr.

Self/Educational Diagnostician

AUSTIN, TX

I am a lifelong Texas public school educator and have two daughters in public schools, I am asking you to oppose Senate Bill 13 and reject book bans.

SB 13 would empower political appointees to decide what books are available to entire public schools, trampling on the parental rights of Texas families and kids.

Parents already have the right to choose what their kids read in school—this bill is book banning, plain and simple, targeting LGBTQIA+ youth and communities of color under the false banner of “parental control.”

Every child deserves access to stories that help them feel seen, valued, and less alone — stories that reflect who they are, where they come from, and who they can become.

If Texas lawmakers truly care about education, they should focus on funding our schools and raising teacher pay, not pushing fear and censorship by banning books.

Keep Texas kids free to read and vote NO on SB 13.

Judy Williams

Self, Customer service rep for insurance company and reading tutor

Decatur,, TX

Please support this important bill to protect parents' rights to protect their children.

Kaylia Thomas

self

Amarillo, TX

If this is allowed, the next step will be for some committee to pick classroom curriculum and classroom reading shelves. Parents do not have access to the same qualified book reviews that educated librarians have access to use to select books. Librarians are hired for their qualifications to build curriculum and this is limiting their jobs and placing it in the hands of non certified/non school employed persons to make decisions and not have to be held accountable for the decisions that are made. Whereas, employed personnel can be held accountable if they place books in the library that are not school approved/appropriate.

This will also limit the librarians ability to take in donated books or purchase books from a book fair, as all books would have to be approved by the outside committee.

Overall, allow the schools and their personnel to have a say in the library selection process.

Meghan Zigmond

Self

Aransas Pass, TX

SB 13 is a bill that will cause unnecessary restraints on the ability of our students to have access to library materials. Texas already has collection development policies that prevent explicit materials from being included in our public school libraries. Any parent can already place restrictions on their own child's reading materials / content. This is easily done by contacting the school librarian. Texas families already have a right to know what their child checks out. Asking parents to be notified every time a book is checked out will cause unnecessary time to be spent away from serving students. I also think, as I am myself a parent, that many families will be annoyed by this constant communication. Many students visit the library daily.

Having a committee, public display of titles and board approval will only keep books out of our student's hands. What are we supposed to say to kids when they ask for the next book in the series they are reading ... "I'm so sorry, I won't be able to add that to our library for two months because of our legislators new rules." This type of committee also invites censorship into collection development. The people serving on the committee may not be able to be unbiased and will undoubtedly prevent books from being added to our collections based on their personal beliefs and views. Librarians have master's degrees and work hard to provide unbiased content, that is safe for kids.

As a parent, I am the only one who has the right to tell my child what they can / can't read. This should be a family decision. Libraries are supposed to deliver reading joy to students. This bill is not good for kids.

Crystal Herring

Self/English Language Arts Educator

Mineral Wells, TX

This bill would devastate the ability of public school libraries to provide books for their students. This bill defers the decision-making process for collection development away from the trained professionals. It also means that someone else's parent now gets to determine for you what your child can or cannot read.

To be a librarian you must have a master's degree in library science. To be a school librarian you must also have three years minimum teaching experience and you must also pass a state certification exam.

Librarians are trained professionals just as much as teachers, nurses, coaches, police officers, etc. You wouldn't let one player's parent coach the football team and sideline the coach and expect your football program to be a success. Don't do the same to libraries at a time when our students desperately need access to quality literature if we have any hope of closing the widening literacy gap. Libraries matter. Books matter. I can give you countless examples of how my students have been changed for the better because of books. Stop telling us what we can and can't do. Allow educated individuals to make choices for themselves!

James Ransdell, Mr
Self
Seguin, TX

Dear Representative,

I am writing to urge your support for Senate Bill 13 and to respectfully request your help in advancing this important legislation out of committee and onto the House floor for a vote.

SB 13 is designed to strengthen and clarify the existing READER Act (HB 900). While the intent behind HB 900 was positive, its implementation has unfortunately not fully delivered the results parents expected regarding the review and removal of inappropriate materials from school libraries.

This bill, SB 13, addresses these shortcomings by bringing much-needed clarity and structure to the library review process. It works to define unacceptable content more clearly, establish consistent standards for enforcement across districts, and ensure parents are meaningfully included in the conversation regarding library materials. Crucially, SB 13 also provides necessary safeguards intended to stop the flow of inappropriate books into our schools.

Given the need for clear, workable standards and the importance of addressing parental concerns, I strongly encourage you to support SB 13. Please take action to help move this bill out of its current committee and bring it to the House floor for consideration.

With the legislative session progressing [Current date: May 5, 2025], timely action on important bills like SB 13 is crucial. Texas families are depending on the passage of this legislation to ensure appropriate materials in our school libraries.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this request.

Sincerely,
James Ransdell
118 Lakeside Dr
Seguin, Texas 78155
Seguin ISD

Michelle Travis
self
Denison, TX

I, as a Texas resident, and tax payer am in support of this bill passing. I urge you to pass it and protect the children!

Danela Lira-Perez
Self
Buda, TX

I am asking you to oppose this bill because it would give a few politically appointed parents decision making power over what books all students in a community have access to. I would like my district to focus on improving math and reading scores instead of worrying about controlling library books. I find it difficult to believe that those allowed to decide what books are and aren't allowed would be qualified to do so given the frequent attacks on librarians who are qualified. Banning books will not fix the problems our schools have, but rather add onto them. I want our schools and teachers to have more support and funding. This bill does not do that.

Melinda Preston
Self
Frisco, TX

When HB 900, the Reader Act, was passed, we had hoped that bill would protect our children from sexually explicit books from our school libraries. Unfortunately, it did not. Please pass SB13 and let's get the job done. Every child should be able to have a childhood without being exposed to materials that are absolutely not suitable for children. Let's let our kids be innocent as long as possible.

Patricia Rose

Self-retired

Austin, TX

Absolutely against this bill. Creates too many unnecessary roadblocks for librarians to do their jobs properly and in a timely manner. And overrides professional knowledge librarians have and have practiced for a long time of what are appropriate books for young people.

Tammy Conrad

Self

Round Rock, TX

As a public school educator for almost 20 years, I say vote No on SB 13. School districts already have processes in place to review reading materials and to address parent questions or concerns; there is no need for this bill and it's just another attempt to beat down public schools and to keep students from having access to materials and to have an educated electorate -vote no.

Erica Harris

Self/ library worker

SanAntonio, TX

This bill would give a handful of parents the power to ban books for every student, even before the books are reviewed. It creates vague standards like "profane" and "indecent," which are ripe for abuse, and forces librarians to pull challenged books off shelves immediately, regardless of merit. SB 13 isn't about protecting kids-it's about politicizing education, silencing diverse voices, and pushing state-sanctioned censorship into every public school.

We trust librarians. We trust educators.

And we trust students to think for themselves. This bill is blatantly unfair to the vast majority of students and parents who respect the freedom to read.

Barbara Johansen8 Rinehart

Self

Bullard, TX

Yes...i am for SB 13...

Lola Hurt

True Texas Project

Addison, TX

SB 13 strengthens and clarifies what HB 900 started by:

- Establishing clear, objective content standards so everyone knows what violates state policy.
- Mandating transparent, consistent procedures for handling challenges, including well-documented responses.
- Ensuring accountability for local review committees and school boards.
- Guaranteeing parents a seat at the table with parent-majority advisory councils.
- Providing oversight of book selections and purchases to stop inappropriate books from entering libraries.
- SB 13 does not just patch the law - it creates a fair and responsive system to protect Texas children!

Anne Russey

Texas Freedom to Read Project & Katy ISD mom

Katy, TX

My name is Anne Russey. I'm a Katy ISD mom and one of the cofounders of a parent-led organization called Texas Freedom to Read Project. I am "against" SB 13.

Texas Freedom to Read Project shares and appreciates our legislators' desire to keep our kids safe from age-inappropriate and harmful material.

However, it is our belief that SB13 undermines our right as parents to control our kids' education.

The School Library Advisory Committee would shift decision making power over most library management and maintenance decisions- including content appropriateness- from individual parents of each student and their child's librarian- to a small committee of politically-appointed, mostly-parent volunteers.

The majority of book challenges in Texas school districts are already driven by a handful people who believe it is their right- and their duty- to save our children from books they deem "profane" and "indecent."

Inevitably, some of these frequent book challengers will be appointed to Library Advisory Councils. They will finally get to assert their version of "community values" on our public school district libraries which they will now essentially control.

The consequences will range from embarrassing to devastating.

Silly picture books that depict illustrated butts and farts and books about anatomy and puberty will be deemed "indecent."

Library book purchase order requests- that have already been professionally curated by librarian educators- will be subjected to an excessive degree of second guessing.

Eventually, library book purchases for some campuses and districts may just stop all together.

We want our children to maintain access to books that help them fall in love with reading and open their eyes to the world around them. We fear SB13 would take many of those opportunities away.

Please vote "no" on SB13. Thank you.

Gloria Davidson

Self

Crowley, TX

VOTE YES TO SB 13!

Leila Little, Ms.

self, stay at home parent

Llano, TX

I am a Texas resident and parent of two voracious readers who attend public school and use public libraries. I hold a master's degree in library science.

In Llano, Texas, I witnessed a version of this play out in my public library system. Our county judge and commissioners dissolved our existing library board and appointed a new one, with a slate of members chosen by them with no discernible application or evaluation process. Unsurprisingly, multiple community members who publicly advocated for censorship of books were appointed to this board. A former librarian was denied a position on this board. What occurred next was a series of bad decisions made by this unqualified group and the elected officials who appointed them.

Similar scenarios will play out in school districts across the state if SB13 passes into law. School librarians are eminently qualified to curate collections for students. Let them do their jobs.

SB13 also prohibits materials that contain "indecent" and/or "profane" language. These terms, as defined, will result in massively wide swaths of literature being removed from high school libraries. Sex and colorful language are parts of life, and they appear in great books. Let's trust our students and their parents to manage what books they want to read. You legislators have no need to interfere in students' library book choices.

This is an objectively bad bill. It will undoubtedly be challenged in court, and the First Amendment will prevail as it has in every other court case regarding books. While that court battle ensues, though, you'll be separating a generation of students from the same books that you and I read in school and benefited from reading. It will rob teenagers of the freedom to read the books that you and I read--and survived reading, unscathed.

It is a bill that will enact the state-sanctioned censorship of books, something we have seen historically in oppressive, fascist regimes.

Understand that in your zeal to remove books like Let's Talk About It, you will be relegating your fellow Texans to live within Fahrenheit 451.

Please vote no, and save the State of Texas from getting involved in yet another prolonged court case regarding library books and the right to read.

Lola Hurt

True Texas Project

Addison, TX

Please Support and Advance SB 13

I'm asking you to support Senate Bill 13, which strengthens and clarifies the READER Act. While HB 900 had the right intent, it has not delivered the results parents expected.

SB 13 brings much-needed clarity and structure to the library review process. It defines what content is unacceptable, sets consistent standards for enforcement, and ensures parents are part of the conversation. SB 13 also addresses the ongoing issue of inappropriate books entering our schools, providing necessary safeguards to stop this flow of inappropriate material.

Please help move SB 13 out of committee and onto the House floor for a vote. Texas families are depending on it.

Corey Weber, Mrs.
Del/teacher librarian
San Antonio, TX

Librarians in each district are highly educated professionals who go through extensive training and selecting materials for students. While parent should absolutely have a say and what their children read, this bill has a major flaws in it that would be prohibitive for students being able to access materials needed for their education. The time requirement for posting and waiting to order books prohibits librarians from being able to access needed materials for students with special concerns. The ISBN rules do not make sense as books published in different format such as paperback or large print will have different ISBN's then a hardcover book. This portion of the bill means that Librarian would not be able to fast track titles that have already been approved in different formats to meet the needs of students such as students who are hard of seeing and might need a large print book this also is prohibitive for students who are needing materials for UIL competitions and might need them in a quicker fashion than this bill allows for. Allowing for a parental advisory committee to meet whenever they want might be prohibitive for being able to get access to books for students in a timely manner throughout the year. Changing the required meeting times to monthly would greatly benefit both librarians and students so that we can order materials in a timely manner to make sure the students have what they need.

Mary Harris, Dr.
self; retired teacher educator
Denton, TX

I live in Denton, TX, and am a retired member of the faculty at the University of North Texas and have been employed by similar institutions in other states. I hold a Ph.D. in English Language Arts Education from the University of Pittsburgh, and I love to read books for and with children. I am ask you to oppose SB13, which would create school library committees to monitor non-instructional materials available in school libraries. Selection of school library resources is a major responsibility of school librarians, who are certified for duties that include appropriate choice of school library materials. After having mastered basic skills, students learn to be critical, lifelong readers and thinkers by reading widely on subjects of their choice. Texas already has parental opt-out provisions that are the most generous of any state. There is no need for SB13. Please do not recommend it for consideration by the Texas House

Sylvia Coulson
self- Dietitian
Waxahachie, TX

I support this bill.

Lucia Peters
Self
Flower Mound, TX

I am writing today as your constituent to stand in opposition to Senate Bill 13 in Texas. SB13 not only infringes on my rights as a taxpayer, but it is also an overreach of governmental power. It takes away individual freedoms from parents, students, community members, and school board trustees to review and regulate school library materials and instead gives the authority to a small group of politically appointed School Library Advisory Council members.

Emily Halliburton
Self
Austin, TX

Hi there, I'm a life long Texan and the partner of a public school educator. I'm writing today to express my position AGAINST SB13. As a child, I spent a lot of time in my school's libraries. It shaped me for the better and expanded my horizons as a young child. SB 13 is taking away the same opportunities from this generations children, and is operating in bad faith. This bill acts as censorship and book banning, and endangers our students and their librarians from receiving and offering inclusive learning. It will disproportionately affect LGBTQ+ and black and brown students and communities who are already underrepresented in literature. I'm asking y'all to oppose SB13 to keep libraries a genuine place of learning and discovery for our students. Thank you for your time.

Sara Stevenson

Self

Austin, TX

I'm Sara Stevenson, a former middle school librarian in Austin.

With Friday's passage of SB 412, which allows school librarians to be arrested for books citizens consider "harmful material," and with last session's HB 900, SB 13 is overkill and displays a gross misunderstanding of the role professional librarians play in their schools.

I'd like to tell you what motivates librarians. It's that moment of connection when you find the right book for the right child. A student, who always says he hates to read, calls out in the hall, "Hey, I'm already on page 40!" Or, "Miss, this is the second book I've ever finished!"

When a new book in a popular series is coming out soon, kids check every day. "Is it here, yet?" Because of the trust the district had in my professionalism, I had the freedom to order the book so that it arrived on publication day. I was the first in the district to add it to the system and an instant hero. We'd then have library aides deliver the books during class to the children on the waiting list. The enthusiasm for reading is contagious.

This bill throws a wrench in the library book acquisition system. Why does a librarian have to wait months before providing that special book that a child or teacher requests?

SB 13 replaces the judgment of the school librarian with the authority of the Local School Library Advisory Council. If the council and then the school board must approve each book on each school's book order, and then the list must be posted for thirty days before books can be purchased, students will have to wait months for books, deprived of the most popular and up-to-date titles. Reading will decline along with test scores. Just as practice is necessary to improve at sports, reading improves through the practice of reading. With all the competition books have with smartphones, why throw up more obstacles between children and their reading?

While these requirements may not be too onerous in a small Texas district, for large city districts with over a hundred schools, it will be nearly impossible to comply. That's a heavy load for one volunteer committee meeting twice a year.

Since parents are overwhelmingly the most important influence in a child's life, why don't these parents instead have a conversation with their children about what books they're reading and checking out? And what about the parents of older teens who want their children to read freely? This bill not only shows a lack of trust in librarians but a lack of faith in parents, or at least the parents who are not part of the library advisory council.

Connie Goddard

Self/retired

Corpus Christi, TX

I am a grandmother with three grandchildren in school in Corpus. There needs to be an advisory board to look out for the welfare of these children that have access to materials that the parents don't want their young children seeing.

kate bremer

self; animal caretaker at Thundering Paws

blanco, TX

No ON AB 13

Brian Klosterboer
ACLU of Texas and Self (Attorney)
Houston, TX

SB 13's local school library advisory councils would increase the risk of unconstitutional censorship. These councils would assist the district in ensuring that local community values are reflected in each school library catalog in the district," and will also consider whether library materials are "appropriate for each grade level." But the bill does not define how "local community values" could possibly be determined in a way that does not cause unconstitutional content or viewpoint discrimination. In *Pico v. Board of Education*, the Supreme Court held that students' First Amendment right to receive information is violated when the government bans a book simply because of the ideas contained in that book. 457 U.S. 853 (1982). It is completely unclear how a council or board could apply the vague and broad notion of "local community values" without committing viewpoint discrimination and it does not seem possible to do so—especially without the mandatory participation actual literary experts, teachers, or librarians. Further, the "appropriate for each grade level" standard is vague, undefined, and risks depriving students of books that are relevant to their personal reading levels and recreational reading interests.

Second, the bill would mandate the automatic removal of any challenged book during the pendency of the review. Allowing these removals would permit any challenger—even if they have unconstitutional, viewpoint-discriminatory motivations—to create a book ban during reconsideration. While ostensibly temporary (although they could last for months), these bans could cause significant impediments to accessing library materials and infringe on students' rights to access information.

Third, the bill's book review and acquisition process would be arduous and potentially unworkable for certain districts. The bill would require school boards to approve of essentially all new library materials—whether donated or procured— "with the advice and recommendations of the district's local school library advisory council." These decisions must be made in an open meeting, after at least 30 days of the list of new materials being made available to the public. Board members can also "propose changes [to the] list . . . before the board votes to approve or reject the list." According to reporting by the Texas Freedom to Read Project (TxFTRP), school boards who have already adopted similar policies have drastically decreased book acquisitions, thereby limiting resources for its students. For example, TxFTRP reported that Carroll ISD implemented such an acquisition policy during the 2022-2023 school year, and the district went from ordering over 1500 books for Carroll Senior High School in 2020-2021 to 0 books in 2023-2024.

We urge you to reject this unnecessary, unconstitutional, and unworkable bill.

Dorothy Rhoads
Self
Dallas, TX

Oppose the bill on the issue of a few unelected people will be given power to decide "community values" for an entire community. This is not workable to facilitate book purchases.

Richard Clark, Mr
Self
Pasadena, TX

Against all legislation banning books! It kills minds!

Kayla Bartley
Self
Lewisville, TX

My name is Kayla Bartley and I'm writing to express my objection to SB13 as it is written. I'm asking for you all to consider some changes be made.

I think it's important to note that I work in a large district in North Texas. We serve roughly 46,000 students, span across 127 square miles, and with 13 municipalities. With us being as large as we are, the amount of library books we have had be requested to be reconsidered and go through our reconsideration policy is very very low. This is in part to the clear, concise, and firm selection policy that our school board has had in place for the past 6+ years. My concern with the wording of "or inconsistent with local community values" is that with my district, and other large districts, spanning over 13 municipalities, our local community values are not the same across the board. I feel like this term can be very ambiguous and open to interpretation person-by-person.

My next concern is with the speed at which I and other librarians will now be able to purchase books for our students. As an elementary librarian, I do not have ANY sexually explicit or vulgar books in my library. My district has 64 libraries. Each librarian on average can purchase anywhere between 300-1000 books, depending on the budget allocated to them, grants they may have received that year, and partnerships with PTA. That's somewhere between 19,200 and 64,000 books purchased a year within my district. I don't see how that is feasible of one small committee to work through in a timely manner to get the latest books in the hands of our students. By allowing school boards to have library advisory councils if their community sees it as a need, districts like mine that are following hb900 and partnering with our parents can continue doing what is working and districts that are not following current legislation, can create the councils.

Currently, it takes me weeks to create a book list after reading through peer-reviews and making sure it meets my district's selection policy. From there I may have to wait 7-10 days for my procurement department to finalize the purchase and pay the vendor. It's about 8-12 weeks before I receive the library books and then I have to look through them all to ensure there is no damage and that there isn't anything that is present that didn't come across in the reviews and any previews I looked at. With SB13, instead of making small purchases monthly as new releases come out, I may be lucky enough to make one purchase a year, eliminating the ability to purchase new releases that my students are impatiently waiting for. One solution would be to include language that books with reviews that are 5th grade and up will go through the committees for extra eye. This way, when the latest Jory John book, Mo Willems, or the latest Owl Dairies books come out, they can be purchased in a timely manner instead of months since they are not the books in question.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Ruth York
Self - Direct Sales
Cisco, TX

I SUPPORT SB 13 because it strengthens and clarifies the READER Act. HB 900 meant well, but has largely failed. SB 13 brings much-needed clarity and structure to the library review process. It defines what content is unacceptable, sets consistent standards for enforcement, and ensures parents are part of the process. SB 13 also addresses inappropriate books entering public schools, with safeguards to stop this flow of harmful material. Please vote YES on SB 13.

Samuel McLellan

Self

Austin, TX

I am deeply concerned by and opposed to this bill and its implications. I feel that it is a gross overreach of governmental power to allow for special interest groups and religious organizations to step in and dictate what they find offensive and then remove them from the school. This bill and many like it are all vague on what would be considered offensive, which means it would be easily left open to subjective views of what is offensive or not. This in conjunction with the addition of clergy members on review committees paints a stark contrast to freedom of speech and expression where in one or two faith-based groups impose their will on everyone rather than simply having honest conversations with their children. It would be too likely to be abused as a way to target poc and lgbtq people, and without any kind of oversight could even be used for one religion to impose its will on another, since the wording of the bill doesn't suggest a fair and balanced group of members of the community. The library is a public place for adults, and a school library is a public place for our children and is not a place for political and religious entities to engage in a proxy war of ideas. Leave these sacred spaces alone and let our kids read and learn, this bill is a response by parents and religious groups who are afraid of having real in-depth conversations with their children and instead choose to poison our intellectual well and cut off anything and everything they don't understand from our children. America is not a land where we stifle free speech, we should not censor what we don't like when we have the freedom to simply not read it. And despite the blatant lies and rhetoric that people have brought to the support of this bill, libraries are not pornography distributors nor are they trying to corrupt our children. They are sacred spaces of learning, respect them and leave them alone.

I urge you to vote against this bill.

Thank you.

JoAnn Fleming, Executive Director

Grassroots America - We the People PAC

Flint, TX

Grassroots America strongly supports SB 13 and urges you to pass it out of committee quickly.

Texas parents were promised action with results when The READER Act, also known as HB 900, was passed last session. We supported that bill and strongly advocated for it because it aimed to protect children from sexually explicit materials in school libraries. But almost two years later, it is clear – The READER Act isn't working as expected.

Parents across Texas are still finding inappropriate content in public school libraries. The law lacks the structure, standards, and oversight needed to make meaningful changes and now the state's own legal process is exposing those failures.

In October 2023, nearly a year and a half ago, a parent in Lovejoy ISD first challenged four books, citing violations of state standards on harmful or unsuitable materials.

On April 29, 2025, the Texas Education Commissioner finally issued a ruling in the case—but the outcome was not definitive. The Commissioner had to send the case back to the district's board because there were no clear findings, no reasoning on record, and no actual copies of the books submitted. That's not a well-functioning, child-friendly, results-oriented system.

Senate Bill 13 is a much-needed fix that brings order, accountability, and parental involvement to school library oversight.

Authored by Sen. Angela Paxton and passed by the Texas Senate, SB 13 delivers what The READER Act failed to deliver – lasting, enforceable protections.

SB 13 repairs the system by strengthening and clarifying what HB 900 started:

- Establishes clear, objective content standards so everyone knows what violates state policy.
- Mandates transparent, consistent procedures for handling challenges, including well-documented responses.
- Ensures accountability for local review committees and school boards.
- Guarantees parents a seat at the table with parent-majority advisory councils.
- Provides oversight of book selections and purchases to stop inappropriate books from entering libraries.

Texas children and their parents are depending on you. Public schools need to build confidence with parents and grandparents by re-establishing themselves as places where children are safe. SB 13 will certainly go a long way in repairing public education's broken bridges. Please help move SB 13 out of committee and onto the House floor for a vote.

SABRINA Ball

self

FORT WORTH, TX

Angela Paxton is wasting EVERYONE's time and MONEY. This will just go to court because it is clearly a violation of free speech and access to information. I trust librarians and I want people and children to have access to everything. I don't trust "Angela" and her Moms For "Liberty" Fascists to protect the freedoms of Americans. Let educated librarians do their jobs. What a waste of time.

Lauren Kluck

Self/librarian

Austin, TX

Capacity of a Small Council to Review Extensive Materials: In large ISDs, the volume of library materials purchased yearly is substantial. In a large school district, thousands of new print and digital titles are purchased annually. The Advisory Council would struggle to review and approve the materials in a timely manner, delaying the availability of new books for students.

Supporting Instructional Needs & Timely Access: School libraries play a crucial role in supporting instructional needs of students. Delays in acquiring necessary materials would hinder the ability of libraries to support literacy objectives. The requirement to post library orders for public comment for 30 days before approval could also delay the acquisition of new and popular titles.

Barriers to Efficient Purchasing Processes: Adding layers of review for purchase creates barriers to a school library's ability to purchase library materials, negatively impacting student learning.

Erosion of Local Control: SB 13 removes local control from school boards by imposing state-mandated procedures for library material approval. This shift undermines the ability of school boards to create policies tailored to the specific needs and values of their communities.

Mary Beltran, Ms.

Self. I am a professor.

Austin, TX

Please do not vote SB 13 out of committee! SB 13 is a school library bill that has the potential to devastate our public school libraries by introducing new overly-broad categories of prohibited books and placing purchasing and reconsideration oversight into the hands of a few politically appointed community member volunteers. It is a bad bill that will harm Texas communities.

Laura Miller

self/substitute teacher, religious educator

Austin, TX

I oppose SB 13 because it would require school districts to establish "library advisory councils" that could easily find ways to censor materials about LGBTQIA+, Black, and brown people. This advisory council would then have the power to approve or deny all library material purchases on the basis of "community values." The vague language of "community values" is where many extremists could find excuses to ban books. Using community values could mean anything at all. A community can value hate speech, shaming people and excluding people. While I hope that communities would have the values of acceptance and tolerance and keep books that support our LGBTQIA+ and people of color, in the past we have seen these books are the first to be accused as having "harmful material or material containing indecent content or profane content" which are a few other vague terms the bill states as reasons for books to be removed from school libraries. Please oppose this bill.

Abby Yarborough

Self

Conroe, TX

Vote yes and pass SB13.

Mindy Le Jeune

Self

Austin, TX

sb13: This bill would create a committee that would meet twice a year, which would agree on which books to purchase for public schools that agreed. This action would take forever to order books & censor many more. The language in this bill is very broad and would remove many books from the shelves. The idea of librarians is over books in kids' hands, and this bill would dramatically stop that access. With student reading levels dramatically dropping, this would hinder student growth in books by not allowing access to the books they are interested in. Not to mention the denial of access to published books that students may not have other access to because of no transportation to public libraries or buying books at book stores because of money. Please do not agree to this bill.

Mary Anne Weatherred

self

Fort Worth, TX

I am a parent to 2 Keller ISD high school students. They have attended these wonderful Texas Public Schools since kindergarten, and we have seen the results of the awful policies in recent years that this bill is trying to spread statewide. Children need more book choices not fewer. Our Keller ISD libraries have been devastated by an overreaching book policy. Shelves are bare and avid readers do not have the choices they deserve. Decisions on which books are available should be made by local professional librarians and educators, not by politically motivated individuals at the state level. Parents have always and should continue to be the decision makers on what their children read. If there is material I deem inappropriate for my children, I communicate with them and parent them. If necessary, I can work with their teachers and librarians, but I do not need state oversight. Please vote against SB 13. Thank you.

Kristen Riedelbach

Self

Austin, TX

Please trust the librarians and educators hired to do their jobs. Most parents do not have time to be involved at this level. We send our kids to school because we want educators who are licensed by the state to make these decisions. If we have specific concerns about materials chosen, we already have avenues available for addressing those concerns. Please do not add to the bureaucracy with this poorly vetted plan! Let teachers, librarians, and administrators do their jobs so parents can do theirs.

Terry Kosobud

Grandparents for Public Schools

Austin, TX

This is yet another example of the Lege creating new systems where already existing systems work just fine. Texas libraries already have policies and procedures in place to properly manage their reading materials. There is absolutely no need for SB13 which only complicates the situations and adds additional costs. This bill is anti-conservative. Please reject SB13.

Michele Wallace, Mrs.

Self

Waxahachie, TX

I support SB13

Michael Carlson

self

Austin, TX, TX

This is nothing but a method for the state to censor books and control what students can find in their libraries. This should be rejected.

Dawn Terrizzi

Self

Denton, TX

As a parent, I want to be able to personally be in control of what my kids read. Not the school. Not the government. ALL information is valuable information. The more exposed my child is to the world (within reason of course), the better prepared they will be for their future and as citizens of the United States. I will not infantilize them just because they are children.

I am asking you to oppose this bill because it would give a few politically appointed parents decision making power over what books all students in a community have access to. I would like my district to focus on improving math and reading scores instead of worrying about controlling library books. Also, Texas already passed HB 900- a school library bill- that school districts are still working to figure out and implement- so we don't need another one. Please ask the Representative to vote "no" on SB 13 if it comes up for a committee vote.

Thank you for your time.

Holly Riedelbach

Self; stay at home parent

Austin, TX

This bill puts an outrageous burden on already overburdened school boards and librarians. It's a fix for a problem that does not exist. As a parent with children in our local schools, I trust our trained, educated, professional librarians to select appropriate materials for students. It's literally their job, and what they are hired to do. It's an uphill battle just to get kids reading in the first place; why create unnecessary obstacles along the way? And schools should not just be an extension of what kids might learn/be exposed to at home. The entire point of a public education is to expand and grow the minds of our youth by introducing new ideas, concepts, and perspectives that they wouldn't otherwise have access to. I trust that our educational professionals are up to this task without another layer of cumbersome regulation.

Stephanie Landgraf

self - business development manager

Austin, TX

I 100% oppose this bill to create local school library councils. Libraries shouldn't be monitored and policed when they already do not have sufficient amount of books and support to do the necessary work needed to educate the next generation. I urge all to vote in opposition in this matter. Thank you!

Carrie Ives

Self

Richardson, TX

This bill puts an undue burden on school librarians. It allows a few people to push their culture war agenda on the rest of the students. We hire librarians who have received training on selecting books that are developmental appropriate for our students and then this bill would allow us to ignore their expertise and training that we pay them to have to allow a few people to cause school libraries to go through a lot of time and expense because they want to limit student opportunities to learn about questions they may have about their bodies and how to relate to other people who may have a different experience than they do.

If you insist that this bill must go forward, then since vouchers have passed, this must also apply to any school that accepts vouchers. We should not be putting costs on our public schools that other schools taking state money do not have to bear.

Cecil Taylor

Self, self-employed in ministry

Plano, TX

I'm deeply concerned about the ongoing assault on transgender people reflected in this bill and equally concerned about the bill's First Amendment ramifications. Parental rights have become a way to use majority opinion to restrict diverse populations. Giving parents the right to squelch transgender topics is a step toward suppressing all kinds of minority opinions.

The real purpose of the bill is to smother transgender identity. I saw a study recently on a family-oriented website that showed how depressed transgender people are and other mental health issues they have; the report claimed that transgender people are actually hurt by their decision to change gender. I know a number of transgender people; what hurts them and makes them depressed is the assault on their identity. If they were left alone to live as they choose, they would pretty much be perfectly happy.

I also feel that the attacks on trans people in general are unwarranted. Opponents point to concerns over bathrooms. I don't know any trans person who makes such a large commitment to their identity that is interested in the bathroom scenarios that have been speculated. That's not why they are transitioning.

Another opponent talking point is harm to families. If we were truly concerned about harm to families, we would outlaw divorce and institute all kinds of counseling to create happy marriages. Divorce and infidelity are statistically dozens of times more harmful to families than trans situations. Perhaps this bill should rule out letting kids know that divorce is an option - which, of course, would conflict with what they see in real life. Transgender people do no direct harm to others. That is why it's so mind-boggling that they are under such attacks.

This bill is all about going to extremes in order to protect a particular line of thinking and does not respect the First Amendment rights of transgender people nor their right to pursue happiness and liberty. Finally, it sets precedent and opportunity for other minority views to be squelched.

Lori Raley

self

Plano, TX

Dear Public Education Committee members, I am supporting SB 13 and ask you to vote for it in your committee. Here is a short list of reasons for you to support this bill. The bill sets clear content standards. The bill creates good review procedures. The bill establishes parent-majority advisory councils. The bill provides oversight of library materials. The bill makes for compliance with the Children's Internet Protection Act (Pub. L. No. A106-554). The bill gives parents access to (1) the school library catalog and (2) to their child's access to certain materials. Thank you, Lori Raley of Plano, Texas in Collin County

Erin McReynolds Davis

Self, writer

AUSTIN, TX

You must vote "no" on SB13, or Texas voters will vote "no" on you. Since I'm not confident I can appeal to *all* of my Texas legislators on the values of personal freedom, education, and literacy, I will appeal to their political aspirations: 38 of 51 school board candidates who spoke out in favor of banning books just lost their district races. Texans have spoken: We don't want government overreach into classrooms—unless it's to protect our kids from mass shootings. Where's the political passion for that? Instead of focusing efforts on protecting kids from bullets, this bill focuses on narrowing their field of knowledge, imagination, and understanding. Texans want kids to have the same access to information, inspiration, and enlightenment that we enjoyed when we were kids, and which we found in libraries and schools. This is not about protecting kids, it's about power. Don't fear an educated, literate, free-thinking constituency: deserve one.

AILEEN BLACHOWSKI

Texas Education 911

Prosper, TX

Texas Education 911 recommends a "YES" vote in favor of this bill.

SB 13 is a positive step forward to ensure indecent and profane content is prohibited in public school libraries. Local library boards should improve accountability and transparency in their own communities. We encourage the committee to accept any amendment that would add the requirement for a preliminary audit of all content and common sense enforcement mechanisms for school staff who disregard the process established under this bill.

Tara Walker Leon

Austin ISD

Austin, TX

I am a high school librarian for 2,900 students at Bowie High School in Austin ISD. This is the largest high school in Austin ISD. I work to serve this community, and a primary mission is to provide access to literary material for students. When a student requests a book, I purchase it for the student so they can continue to improve literacy skills and continue reading. There is a great deal of competition to keep students reading. Every day, more students stop reading and spend more time on social media and gaming on computers. Librarians want students to read for pleasure. Senate Bill 13 would directly impact my ability to purchase books for students and stop them from reading material they request. Furthermore, I have a Masters in Library Science. I have been professionally trained in collection development for young adults and children. I understand the needs of the Bowie community, and since I am also a certified 7-12 teacher, I am familiar with TEKS aligned curricular materials Bowie staff utilizes. Outsourcing these responsibilities to untrained community members only serves to undermine public schools, teachers, and librarians.

This is yet another waste of taxpayer dollars and precious resources public schools desperately need. Thank you for your consideration.

Leann Maxwell

self

Fort Worth, TX

I oppose HB 13. Parents already have a mechanism to limit what their children can access in school libraries. This bill takes away parental control by allowing a small group of hateful parents to control what every student in a school can access in the library. Limiting access to books only encourages more people to read those books. Let librarians do their jobs. They consider the community when picking books. They consider the needs of all students. You are not the parent of my kids. You have no right to keep books from my children, or anyone else's.

Barbara Anderson

retired-public school educator

Austin, TX

Library materials should be managed by certified librarians who have education and training in curating a collection. Districts need procedures for parents who want to challenge materials, but **PARENTS SHOULD NOT BE THE ONES MAKING DECISIONS FOR AN ENTIRE SCHOOL/DISTRICT**. Parents can/should monitor the materials their own child checks out, but have no right to push what they believe is appropriate or inappropriate on everyone else. Vote against this bill.

Karen Horgan
self
Fort Worth, TX

I am writing to voice my strenuous opposition to SB13, the Library Advisory Committee bill. As a parent, Texan, voter, and school library supporter, I am asking you to oppose this bill because it would give a few politically appointed parents decision making power over what books all students in a community have access to. Librarians are trained professionals; they are required to have a Master's Degree in Library Science. They know what they are doing. A panel of random parents does not. Parents have a right to limit/approve what their children read, but not to make decisions that impact students district wide. Texas already passed HB 900, a school library bill, that school districts are still working to figure out and implement, so we don't need another one. Please vote NO on SB 13 and do not pass it out of committee. Thank you.

Andrew Pierce
Self
Lorena, TX

I support SB 13 this will give parents a greater say in book decisions. Lets stop harmful books being purchased on the taxpayer's dime. Parents need to have a voice.

Kristin Rice, Rev.
Self/Pastor
Texarkana, TX

A tiny group of politically appointed parents shouldn't be able to broadly restrict access to books based on their own definition of community values. This is an infringement on my rights as a taxpayer and creates an unnecessary layer of bureaucracy. Please do not support this bill.

Donna Venable-Finch
Self; Student Achievement Coordinator
Seguin, TX

As a parent of 2 children, a retired public school Principal, and now a Student Achievement Coordinator in a private school, I am insulted that you are even considering having random parents deciding what materials my children can or cannot read. You are taking away my rights as a parent to make thoughtful decisions for my own children. In addition, librarians have the pedagogy required to make decisions about books to purchase in a library. I want my children to have access to literature that represents ALL people, and I take full responsibility for what MY children read. I will NOT ALLOW anyone to take that responsibility away from me. I am tired of elected officials and random people trying to push their personal agenda on my family and me. This bill is ridiculous, shameful, and its contents have no place in ANY educational system. Senators, I expect you to do the right thing and place this bill where it belongs; in the garbage. And Mr. Paxton? I look forward to voting against you and any other politicians who think that wasting taxpayer dollars to discuss this trash is worthwhile.

William Koenig
Texas HHSC
Austin, TX

The books my son reads is the not a decision made by any person or entity besides my wife, my son, and me. Limited the access to any book at any point is a slippery slope we do NOT want to start going down. My grandmother (a retired school librarian in Jasper, Texas), my mom (librarian at Cedar Park Library when I was a kid), and my wife (our church librarian and page at the Library of Congress) all oppose this bill. Vote AGAINST SB 13!!!!

Laurel Stevens

self

The Woodlands, TX

As an educator working with students who have dyslexia, I urge you to vote no on SB 13. The restrictions in this bill will hinder school's acquisition of books. We want to encourage children to read. We should be removing all roadblocks in their way, rather than putting up roadblocks. A few parents don't have the right to determine what all children read. A diversity of books--genres, topics, styles, characters--helps more children get engaged in reading. Finding more and more reasons to restrict what gets on the shelves is the opposite of what we should be doing now. Vote no on SB 13.

Betty Davis

Grndparent

Lindale, TX

I have seen the material in the school library and find it equal xxx material found in adult store. We need to protect the innocent through school k-12.

Pam McFadden

Citizens for Education Reform

Lubbock, TX

Thank you for accepting comments, please ensure that SB 13 gets a vote on the Senate floor. Our Texas Children deserve a safe childhood education free from expose to educational materials and library books that are inappropriate to their level of maturity and social understanding. They already have too much stimulation for their innocent minds to take in. Please allow library councils the power to censor/remove inappropriate material.

Thank you, Pam McFadden

Sarah Terrell

self

Houston, TX

Even trying to read the summary analysis of this bill is mind-numbing. The bill envisions a complete surveillance state for every movement in every school library in Texas, including minute details about card catalogs and parent portals. ONLY the parents can be "trusted" to know what is right for their student to read. They must be informed of each checkout immediately. What kind of hypervigilant, paranoid parent are we catering to? This is massive overkill and requires an extremely expensive and laborious oversight apparatus inside the library, and outside in the form of new "councils" to approve book purchases and reconsider old ones, any time a book is questioned by anyone. Thus the only parent who can be "trusted" is the one with the most intolerant opinions—their views will be the baseline that everyone else must cater to.

The Lege is doing three things they always do.

- Question, malign, and encumber the professional expertise of educators, in this case school librarians;
- Set up a very expensive and cumbersome requirement with zero additional funding provided (the usual Texas unfunded mandate);
- Pander to the extreme right wing.

And two newish themes:

- imposing a massive burden on public schools with zero corresponding burden on the private schools that we now are forced to support with our tax dollars through the voucher program; and
- entrapping educators and civil servants with impracticable and vague standards impossible to comply with; the chilling effect on educators is part of the effort to undermine Texas public schools.

The Texas Lege places no value on student curiosity, creativity, love of learning, or a marketplace of ideas. They aim to stringently control every stray bit of information that approaches a student. The idea is to produce citizens who cannot think for themselves and will never test the power of the establishment.

Deborah Malany

Self

Highland Village, TX

Please support this bill. Thank You

Monica Cline

Self

Fredericksburg, TX

I am FOR SB 13. What I like about this bill is its establishment of clear standards and procedures. Establishing a School Library Advisory (SLAC) Council, of which the majority of members are parents elected by our elected school board members, is an excellent idea. It is similar to the School Health Advisory Council (SHAC) established by Texas Education Code 28.004. To ensure our Texas Children flourish academically, we must have high standards for the quality of literature they access. The bill establishes clear content standards, consistent review procedures, accountability, and transparency while giving parents a voice. I strongly encourage you to pass this bill and allow the parents of each district to lead in the education of their children. This bill supports a high standard for our Texas tax-payer funded libraries and school districts.

Alex Harris

Self

Spring, TX

Let's stop the sexualization of our children thru inappropriate curriculum and library materials.

Caty-Jane Galyon

Self

Celina, TX

Hi, my name is Caty-Jane and I'm writing in regards to SB13, the Library Advisory Committee bill. As a teacher, parent, Texan, and voter and school library supporter, I am asking you to oppose this bill because it would give a few politically appointed parents decision making power over what books all students in a community have access to. I would like my district to focus on improving math and reading scores instead of worrying about controlling library books. Also, Texas already passed HB 900- a school library bill- that school districts are still working to figure out and implement- so we don't need another one. Please ask the Representative to vote "no" on SB 13 if it comes up for a committee vote. Thank you

Valerie Miller

Self - Instructional Designer

Comfort, TX

School advisory boards need to be created with parents in the majority to determine what is appropriate in their child's school library. Vote YES

Monica Koenig

self - musician

AUSTIN, TX

As a concerned citizen and supporter of libraries, I would like to register opposition to SB13, the Library Advisory Committee Bill. School libraries employ professional librarians and educators trained to curate collections appropriate for their students. This bill would instead give power to committees of politically-appointed parents to decide which books are available to students. Book selection and availability is the responsibility of trained professionals, which lets schools and students get on with the good work of learning. Students should know without a doubt that books are valuable, interesting, uplifting, informative, life-changing, entertaining... and in creating committees to keep students from accessing books, the message being sent to our young students is that books are dangerous--something young people need to be protected from. Everyone in our society benefits from the kind of education that opens minds, and I believe SB13 works to limit them. I oppose SB13 and would like our representatives to do the same.

JoAnn McCracken, Ms.

Taxpayer, retired.

Houston, TX

Dear legislators,

I am sure you are aware of the content of this bill. It is your responsibility to protect and defend the children of this state. Don't understand why you do not want to do your job. Shame on you.

Get this bill to the floor for a vote so we can find out who the Protectors of our future are.

Dear legislature,

You need to get sb13 to the floor to be voted on so we can know who the pedophile friendly people are in our legislature. This bill will help protect the children of Texas. That is your responsibility. Please act on this.

Thank you for your service.

S Kuehl

Self retired

Houston, TX

Once again, this is a sad bill. Who knows about books? Easy, LIBRARIANS. This is their expertise. Just like medical doctors know healthcare. Do yall want another generation to grow up stupid? Books open young people's minds. Giving control to controlling parents who don't even read what they want to ban is pathetic. Yes, the parent has choice for their own children but shouldn't be controlling others. Leave the books to the experts.. let librarians do their job to open minds..PLEASE DO NOT ALLOW SB 13 OUT OF COMMITTEE Our kids deserve better

Thanks

Tina Orebaugh, Retired math Professor

Self

Montgomery, TX

Please stop the sexualization of our children and pass SB13

Thank you

Tina

Aubrey Bleier

Self, Teacher

Victoria, TX

My name is Aubrey Bleier, and I was raised, educated, and now have taught in Texas for eight years. I write in opposition to SB 13, a bill that does not seek to empower parents, but prevent our educators from providing the well-rounded and rigorous education our students so desperately need in an era of misinformation. This is not possible without access to materials that encourage critical thinking and allow us to reflect on our history. As time has proven, a vocal minority of individuals uninvolved with the day-to-day operations of schools have protested the inclusion of material in libraries that offends their sensibilities, often in discriminatory ways unfairly targeting LGBTQ+ topics. Such outrage serves as nothing but a virtue signal and does not service our schools and libraries in the ways they need most. I encourage you to oppose this bill and focus on what will truly empower our educators and students.

Celia Peterson

Self

Maud, TX

Please support and advance SB 13

Ashley Quintana

self

Benbrook, TX

Please vote AGAINST SB 13. This bill gives power to a small group of politically appointed parents to decide what library books will be available to entire school districts of students. This should be the job of the certified, master degreed librarian. It would also create unnecessary backlog and paperwork for librarians and districts and take much longer for students to have access to new library purchases. This would be an incredibly tedious and long process for a group of volunteers especially in larger districts that have hundreds of schools. School districts already are required to have a challenge policy in place if parents are concerned about specific books in a library. This is the proper protocol that should be followed for accountability rather than a select few people choosing entire library catalogs for everyone else's children. What if this group chooses books that other parents don't agree with? That would be a much more complicated process than what is already in place. I would much rather our school districts be focused on improving reading and math scores and let librarians do their jobs. Vote against SB 13.

Jennifer Rogers

Self

Allen, TX

I support SB 13 to protect our kids.

Leta Mekker

Self

Allen, TX

Sexually explicit books should not be in school libraries. If a parent wants their child to read those kind of books, they can outside of school.

Jana Long, Director

Concerned Women for America

Dallas, TX

I am Jana Long, the Director of Concerned Women for America of Texas and I am testifying on behalf of CWA Legislative Action Committee in support of SB 13. Our Core Issues include the Protection of Children. Because this bill extends protection to children from inappropriate materials in schools and allows for extended Parental rights to determine the appropriateness of materials for their child, we support this legislation.

I ask that you support SB 13.

Carolyn McClugage

Self/Precinct Chair 263/Leander

Leander, TX

Please support SB 13. Common sense!

Thank you,

Carolyn McClugage

Warren Horgan

self

Fort Worth, TX

I am writing to voice my strong opposition to SB13, the Library Advisory Committee bill.

I am asking the committee to oppose this bill because it would give a few politically appointed parents decision making power over what books all students in a community have access to.

Parents have a right to limit/approve what their children read, but not to make decisions that impact students district wide.

Trust librarians to know what they are doing. They have Master's Degree in Library Science. This small group of random parents does not.

Also, Texas already passed HB 900, a school library bill, that school districts are still working to figure out and implement, so we don't need another one.

Please vote NO on SB 13 and do not pass it out of committee.

Thank you.

Margaret Duran, Mrs.

Self

Corpus Christi, TX

Please vote against SB13. SB 13 is a school library bill that has the potential to devastate our public school libraries by introducing new overly-broad categories of prohibited books and placing purchasing and reconsideration oversight into the hands of a few politically appointed community member volunteers.

In Corpus Christi, we have seen what happens when a small, zealous group tries to ban books. This is something that needs to be stopped now. Thank you.

Sam Abiog

Self

Bryan, TX

Good day, members of the Texas Legislature. My name is Sam Abiog. I currently reside in Bryan, Texas, but just three weeks ago, I was a resident of Senate District 8, represented by Senator Angela Paxton. I've had the opportunity to collaborate with many legislators—both as a private citizen and during my time as a trustee for Allen ISD—on the issue of obscene and inappropriate reading materials in public school libraries.

We have all seen and heard examples of vulgar and graphic content in some of these books. Such material has no place in our schools. Public education should focus on academic excellence, fostering creativity, innovation, and critical thinking. Explicit content undermines that mission. It has no place in a public school library. Period.

I respectfully urge you to require that each school district establish a review committee composed of both parents and educators. This committee would be responsible for developing clear, age-appropriate standards for library materials at every grade level. If a book includes explicit or obscene content but is deemed appropriate for older students, then parents should be given the option to opt-in—not opt out—before their child has access to it.

Furthermore, school districts should make all library materials viewable online for parents, including a history of each student's check-outs, whether physical or digital. This level of transparency empowers parents to stay informed, reinforces their family's values, and opens opportunities for meaningful conversations between parents and their children.

School districts must be held accountable for the content they offer. Book review committees should be transparent and use a consistent rubric when evaluating challenged materials. These reviews should be conducted in a blind format to ensure fairness and objectivity.

Parents are the primary stewards of their children's moral development, and they deserve to be partners in the educational process. I've personally witnessed the confusion and inconsistencies in how these policies are implemented across school districts. Additionally, book vendors must be held accountable for including unsolicited or "free" reading materials with purchases—this loophole must be closed. Librarians, too, should be responsible for ensuring that every book placed on school shelves aligns with district standards.

As a parent, I want my child exposed to books that enrich vocabulary and stimulate intellectual growth—not materials that graphically depict sex, rape, or abuse. Those topics should never be included in public school libraries.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I strongly support the passage of Senate Bill 13 during this legislative session. Thank you, Senator Paxton, for your leadership, your commitment to listening, and your efforts to protect the minds of Texas children.

God bless you all.

Michael McPhail, Mr

self self employed

Irving, TX

Hi, my name is Michael McPhail and I'm writing to ask all Representatives on the Public Education committee to vote no on SB13, the Library Advisory Committee bill. This awful bill would allow outside agitators like True Texas Project to usurp parents' decision-making power over what books all students in a community have access to. Texas school districts need to focus on improving math and reading scores instead of worrying about censoring library books. Also, Texas already passed HB 900- a school library bill- that school districts are still working to figure out and implement- so we don't need another one. Please vote "no" on SB 13 if it comes up for a committee vote. Thank you.

Peter Muhlberger

The Lubbock Freedom to Read Coalition

Lubbock, TX

I wish to comment on SB 13, a measure ostensibly to give parents greater control over the books their children will read in public schools.

First, the bill is unnecessary because parents already have control over their children's' reading materials in Texas. Existing Texas law recognizes parents rights to control their own children's school library readings and classroom exposure. If parents think that a book is objectionable by community standards, they can, under rules given by the state of Texas, challenge a book and their school district must compose a committee, often consisting of educational professionals and community members, to review the book. Given this, Texans are, unsurprisingly, opposed to broad book bans. The recent school board elections around Texas showed that in 16 of 20 communities, voters rejected book banners from School Boards.

Second, this bill creates new avenues by which a vocal minority of parents can decide for all parents what books their schools will be allowed to carry. It empowers people with strong beliefs, often those fired up by a national network of groups with extreme ideologies that appear to be supported by networks of ultra-wealthy donors—see, for example, Moms for Liberty and the True Texas Project, both of which have been supported by organizations and / or individuals connected to Kansas billionaire Charles Koch's national donor network.

The bill creates new avenues for vocal minority control in multiple ways. A) It hands power to decide which books to ban to a local parent-led School Library Advisory Council. But which parents are likely to be willing to spend their time on these Councils, especially if dozens of books are challenged and need to be carefully considered? It will likely be those who are very strongly motivated. This is an invitation for people with extreme ideologies to steer which books students can see. There is no guarantee that the parents on these Councils actually reflect community sentiment. B) SB 13 adopts language that creates a big opening for these Councils to ban a wide variety of books in ways that can harm students' education. For instance, Councils may choose to ban books for 'profane content' which amounts to Councils deciding that content is offensive and indecent—whatever they take those terms to mean. Among the ideologues driving book bans, I understand that not a few would consider books that examine the real history of the U.S. as beyond the pale, not to mention a wide variety of books that so much as touch on gender, sex, or sexuality. Book banning lists are replete with books that discuss America's history and so much as have a non-central character who is not heterosexual.

Third, stringent book bans do our children no favors. Books have been banned that are needed for standardized testing. More generally, adolescents need to understand themselves and their world and many have few avenues to do so besides books.

Mary Smith

Concerned Women for America and self

Arlington, TX

From the previous session where a bill was paraded and spoken of as so important and doing so much good, to only finding out it was weak and didnt have the necessary strength it needed. This bill is powerful and will impact schools, child safety, and parental rights. Library materials like all other forms of social media and libraries and news and magazines have become more and more poor in honoring the rights of students and the importance of influencing them for good, not evil. This bill is sound and well thought out. It needs to pass this session to protect our students. I strongly support this bill.

Philip Boehm

self, writer translator director

Houston, TX

This bill is harmful and unnecessary and amounts to censorship by a few politically appointed persons. It reminds me of the censorship I encountered when I lived in Communist Poland, when a small committee of Communist Party faithful decided what was "appropriate." Please DO NOT PASS this bill and be mindful of Thomas Jefferson's words: "and even should the cloud of barbarism and despotism again obscure the science and liberties of Europe, this country remains to preserve and restore light and liberty to them.

Rhonda Wright

Self, retired grandmother

Texarkana, TX

Please support HB 13 which gives the READER Act some clarification and more ability to get the results the parents expect. It also clarifies and gives structure to the review process of the school libraries so to keep inappropriate books out of the schools and to keep more from entering them.

Please help move SB13 out on to the House floor! Please do this for Texas families! Help put a stop to vendors sexualizing Texas's children!

May God bless you and Texas!

Rhonda Wright

Lauren Leese

Self, Editor

Round Rock, TX

I am writing to oppose SB 13. This bill would concentrate the power to decide what school library materials are allowed in a district in the hands of a small group of political appointees. These appointees do not need to be trained librarians or teachers with the expertise to curate a book collection, and they do not even need to all have children in the district they supposedly represent -- meaning that public school parents will have their children's reading materials subject to the whims of people they did not elect and who have no stake in the library collection they preside over.

Additionally, requiring all books to be approved by this committee will create a regulatory bottleneck that will drastically limit the ability of school libraries to acquire new books for their collection. HB 900, which passed in 2023, already sets a strict review policy for public school library collections that schools are still struggling to implement. Please stop forcing public schools to waste their limited resources on stuff like this.

Michael Conti

Self, Library Worker

Austin, TX

SB 13 will devastate school libraries, and this committee must oppose it.

There are so many things wrong with this bill, but one of the most telling aspects is the lengthy, labyrinthine processes it mandates. It's been 94 years since S.R. Ranganathan proposed the Five Laws of Library Science, a durable and powerful encapsulation of the theory and practice of librarianship. The fifth law is that "a library is a growing organism," the quantity and quality of its collection blossoming only through skillful care and attention.

Librarians—especially youth librarians and school librarians—are remarkable professionals who know how to foster the growth of their libraries despite the very human limitations that keep anyone from being able to read every single book on any library's shelf. (I've heard folks testifying on other anti-library bills claim that they can, in fact, read every book at any library, and i am quite sorry that the only libraries they seem to have known are so barren and underresourced, but i suspect they're also just not being honest with themselves or others.) A library where a board of political appointees must review every single title during its acquisition process on their volunteer time is a picture of an organism being choked by bureaucracy, straining desperately to be fed by the accurate, up-to-date information and fresh stories removed beyond its grasp.

This is all without even mentioning the clauses that require yet another round of ridiculously broad censorship, ill-conceived standards that would bar students access to classic literature and relatable new releases alike while surely doubling down on the plainly discriminatory trends of the current tidal wave of book bans. Thanks to rigorous tracking by PEN America, we know that in the 2023-24 school year, people of color featured in 36% of all banned titles, LGBTQ+ stories and characters were centered in more than 25%, and that a whopping 73% of graphic novels, picture books, and illustrated titles the self-appointed censors went after highlighted non-white, non-straight identities.

This bill is an attack on libraries and librarians, young readers and their futures, and a literate polity. Please stop SB 13.

Mary Lowry, Ms.

self/author

Austin, TX

I urge you to vote NO on SB 13. This bill basically puts libraries under the control of library advisory councils and has unnecessary and draconian measures for buying library materials. It also imposes other limitations that would GUT libraries and literature classrooms across the state. As a voter, I ask you to vote against this bill!

Lynn Moore

--None--

Houston, TX

As a parent in Cy Fair ISD I am opposed to SB13, the Library Advisory Bill. We do not need this bill because it would give a few politically appointed parents decision making power over what books all students in a community have access to. School districts need to focus more on improving math and reading scores and not have to deal with more burdens like this library bill. Texas already passed school library bill HB 900 that school districts are trying to figure out and we do not need another one.

Dorcas Hand

self

Houston, TX

SB13 is the Library Advisory Committee bill. As a Texan community member and voter, I am a school library supporter. PLEASE oppose this bill because it would give a few politically appointed parents decision making power over what books all students in a community have access to. I would like my district to focus on improving math and reading skills instead of worrying about controlling library books. Also, Texas already passed HB 900- a school library bill- that school districts are still working to figure out and implement- so we don't need another one. Please vote "no" on SB 13 when it comes up for a committee vote. Thank you.

Lydia Gauna, Mrs

Self

Tyler, TX

As a mother of 2 children i hope our elected officials pass sb 13. Its time we protect children. Please vote in favor of sb 13

Alejandro Gauna, Me.

Self

Tyler, TX

I support SB 13. I believe it is time that Texas protects our kids literature from pornographic materials at our libraries. As a father of 2 daughters I pray that our elected officials support SB 13

Taylor Fox

Self

Austin, TX

Against

Michael Hurewitz

self

Austin, TX

Please oppose this bill!

Theresa Webb, Mrs.

Self Retired

Henderson, TX

Please support SB 13.

Mary Woodard

Self - retired

Desoto, TX

Oppose. This bill has many mechanisms that would slow or eliminate entirely the ability of a school to purchase library books. With literacy on the decline, we should be providing funding for more books and not making it more difficult to purchase them. Vote NO.

Chrissy Hejny

Self - Public School Teacher

Austin, TX

As a 17-year veteran public high school English teacher, candidate in a school librarian certification and Master of Science in Library Science program, and parent of public schoolchildren, I am vehemently opposed to this bill. If the bill author knew anything at all about school libraries, he would know that they already have advisory committees, detailed collection policies, procedures in place for community members to express concerns about materials, and a comprehensive reconsideration process. Like several other bills heard by this committee this Session, this bill manufactures problems where they don't exist, and it's nothing more than another step in the scheme to dismantle public education. Not only is it deeply insulting to public school librarians, who are duly certified and highly trained professionals, it's a blatant violation of the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States – which is afforded to every citizen regardless of age. Intellectual freedom and equitable, uninhibited access to information are cornerstones of democracy, and this is a shameless attempt to strip that from Texas students. Kill this bill and stop trying to destroy one of the few systems in our crumbling democracy that's actually worth saving.

Shana Fuller

self

Corpus Christi, TX

I support SB 13 and urge you to do the same. Honoring Inherent Parental Rights to direct and guide a school library's collection development policy and practices within the confines of current law is paramount to strengthening the Parent - School partnership in educating Texas children. Further, Parents best understand what is and what isn't age-appropriate material for children to consume and must have unfettered access to all library materials at all times for review. Doing so, empowers Parents in their journey to ensure the transmission of their values to their beloved offspring. I urge you to vote "Aye" in support of SB 13 today! Thank you.

Jacob Morgan

Self

Austin, TX

This bill is incredibly harmful to schools and to our intellectual and educational environment. It would limit the ability for school librarians to do their jobs, and it is a direct attack on public schools and freedom of speech. A librarian should be free to curate books that help our students grow. The rules for these councils are arbitrary and subjective, and it is all-out censorship. This is against everything our founding fathers stood for.

Julie Dewine, MS.

CISD parent of former student

Conroe, TX

Parents already have choice in what their children read. All this bill does is remove MY child's choice and MY family's choice. It's important that children have a variety of books to read that may depict their own experiences or curiosities of others. Fostering a love of learning is the educator's job not banning books based on some other parent's ideology! If Texas is really interested in a children's education, fully fund public schools!

Kristin Barrow

Self

Smithville, TX

I am against this ridiculous bill. Stop government overreach and stay away from banning access to books. Banning books is never on the right side of history.

Justin Marston

Self

Rowlett, TX

I am strongly opposed to SB 13. Library book selection should be up to librarians who know their students and have the qualifications to make the right choices. There is already state law that protects kids from "harmful materials" so this is a non issue. Again I strongly oppose SB 13.

Marjorie Lawrence

self

Austin, TX

Against the bill

Fern Mossman

Self

Prosper, TX

Please support SB 13

Mary Marston

Self

Rowlett, TX

I am opposed to SB 13. I am a certified Texas School Librarian and have a masters degree in library science. This combined with my experience as a teacher made me wholly qualified to make decisions about what books and resources fit the needs of my school. I knew my students as readers. Their likes and dislikes, what books needed to be replaced, what topics teachers needed, what areas of our collection needed updating. There is an art to selecting books and if a group of people that are not in the library daily are responsible for choosing books the library, students, and teachers will suffer. There are already state laws and mandates in place to protect students from "harmful materials". Librarians are a treasure in schools and spend a ton of time adding to their collection. The last thing they want to do is hurt students, therefore they are selecting appropriate books for the age of the students. I would argue that a committee selecting books is what would harm our students more. Books allow our students to think critically and by allowing librarians to choose the best books because they are HIGHLY QUALIFIED is what is going to benefit our students and future in the long run. We want and need students to learn new concepts, consider other ideas, and get lost in great books. That is how we raise and educate our future!!

Sue & Don Silver, McKinney Precinct Chair & Capt.

CCGOP

McKinney, TX

As a McKinney GOP Precinct Chair in Sen. Paxton's district along with my husband who's a Precinct Capt., we strongly support SB 13. We've also spoken at McKinney school board meetings about this issue.

Tracy Shannon

self

Kingwood, TX

This bill is looking to fix some of the holes left by HB 900 the READER Act from last session. This is a priority bill for the GOP platform of Stop Sexualizing Texas Children. Please support this bill.

Kayla Cobble

Self

Austin, TX

My name is Kayla Cobble, and I'm writing in opposition to SB 13.

My concerns about this bill can be summarized with the assistance of The State of the Union Address given by President Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1941.

Roosevelt stated, "In the future days...we look forward to a world founded upon four essential human freedoms." Those freedoms are: freedom of speech; freedom of worship; freedom from want; and freedom from fear.

Freedom of speech affords individuals the ability to think for themselves, including children. Books communicate ideas, share perspectives, inspire empathy, and invite conversation, making them a foundational source of diverse expression. Thus, the objective of this bill to restrict reading materials – particularly those censured based on partisan or sectarian values – contradicts the most basic fundamental right in our country.

Freedom of worship prohibits the government from impressing a particular theology on its citizens. This bill conflicts with this right, as it requires public schools, which educate students of various religious backgrounds, to establish library advisory councils – consisting not of professional educators, but unqualified parents – that can influence what reading materials are approved or rejected based on political or ideological preferences. These personal biases, whether intentional or not, could lead to discrimination against books featuring POC or LGBTQ characters.

Freedom from want promotes prosperity; yet this bill would prevent students from accessing books, creating scarcity in school libraries. This educational barrier, which could deprive children from underserved communities of a valuable scholastic resource, only perpetuates the cycle of poverty, which is antithetical to the inherent economical benefit of graduating from school. Moreover, books provide comfort and guidance for children seeking validation or navigating difficulties; and severing that vital lifeline would only keep students, who are often struggling to even survive in the face of bullying, isolation, or erasure, from thriving. This bill harms, not helps, children.

Freedom from fear encourages governments to establish laws that instill their citizens with a sense of security. However, teachers and librarians from school districts that have implemented procedures similar to those in this bill have reported working in climate of fear. When books are deemed potentially dangerous, libraries become liabilities, and students are forced to pay the price as the budget for books decreases year over year due to anxieties surrounding laws about acquiring additional ones.

I will conclude with a quote from the aforementioned speech, in which Roosevelt warns, "We must especially beware of that small group of selfish men who would clip the wings of the American eagle in order to feather their own nests." Please do not allow a minority of parents to dictate public school library policies for the majority of children across the state.

Idona Griffith
Retired Teacher
Austin, TX

I am strongly opposed to this bill as it is censorship by the special interest groups. Parents are quite free to monitor and censor what their children read, but they are NOT free to decide what MY children read or have access to. Libraries are sacrosanct in any democracy and ours should be no exception!

Christin Bentley, SD-1 State Republican Executive Committeewoman
Self, Chair of Texas GOP's Legislative Priority: Stop Sexualizing Texas Kids
Winona, TX

Chairman and Members,

My name is Christin Bentley. I serve as Chair of the Republican Party of Texas Legislative Priority: Stop Sexualizing Texas Kids, and I am testifying in strong support of SB 13. This is a top-priority, officially endorsed bill of the Republican Party of Texas, and I urge you to move it forward without delay.

I supported the READER Act, HB 900, when it passed last session. It was a major step forward—for the first time ever, Texas established enforceable library content standards for public schools. But two years later, we have to face the truth: the law isn't working as intended.

The vendor provisions in HB 900 have faced legal challenges, but the courts upheld the library content standards—a huge win that affirmed our right to protect children from explicit content in schools. So the question is no longer should we remove sexually explicit materials. That was answered with HB 900. The question now is: why aren't they gone?

As the lead of a team that audits school libraries, I can tell you: compliance is rare. School districts are confused. Terms like "pervasively vulgar" and "educationally unsuitable" are too vague, as the Administrative Law Judge in the Lovejoy ISD case confirmed. In that case, a parent followed every rule. The district ignored the process. The books stayed. Children are still exposed.

SB 13 is the fix.

It clarifies the law by defining terms like "indecent" and "profane." It ensures school boards can't ignore complaints, creates transparency through parent-majority library councils, and requires districts to follow clear, timely processes for reviewing materials.

You were also given a packet today—real examples of the explicit material still sitting in Texas public school libraries. These books were found in the districts represented by members of this committee.

Texas families are watching. Children are depending on you. If we meant what we said when we passed HB 900, then we must finish the job.

I respectfully urge you to support SB 13 and vote it out of committee. We cannot afford to wait another session.

Thank you.

Christin Bentley M.S.
SD-1 State Republican Executive Committeewoman
Chair, Stop Sexualizing Texas Kids

Jennifer Margulies

Texas Jews for Democracy

Austin, TX

My name is Jennifer Margulies, and I'm commenting in opposition to SB 13 on my own behalf and as a representative of Texas Jews for Democracy. This bill is deeply concerning, as it provides a mechanism for censorship that would leave Texas students less prepared to participate as active and informed members of our shared society. As Jews, we are aware that similar efforts in Texas resulted in age-appropriate books about the Holocaust being pulled from classroom and library shelves. As supporters of democracy, we know that students need to have access to a wide range of materials that help them understand the multi-faceted history that has brought us to the present day, not just the materials that might be popular among a certain group of ideologically motivated community censors. All children deserve to see themselves represented in their school libraries, regardless of their race, religion, or any other identity category. Particularly egregiously, this bill would give community advisory councils influence over trained school librarians' acquisition of books on the basis of whether library materials are "consistent with local community values." As religious and cultural minorities, this phrase raises a serious red flag. Local community values may include, for example, Holocaust denial or "protecting" children from information about other religions or cultures. We do our Texas students a grave disservice to put their access at information at the mercy of these proposed advisory councils.

Parents already have the right to choose what their students read in school; SB 13 is not only unnecessary from a parent choice perspective, it actually denies Texas parents choice by forcing schools to submit to the arbitrary selection of a group of untrained community members, a process that is incredibly vulnerable to manipulation. Please vote no on SB 13.

Carey Mayo

Self

Austin, TX

Parents already have the right to control what books their child may read. They do not need an untrained advisory council to say what books may or may not be in a library. Librarians are trained professionals and know how to select books for the readers they serve. A council would slow down (greatly, especially at the beginning) the process of getting new books into the library. Let's just make this simple and have parents parent their own children and let other parents parent their children. Let's actually try to have LESS government involvement in our lives.

Carrie King

self

Austin, TX

This Bill aims to strip public school families of their right to a well-rounded, worldly education. Not all of us want our children to be raised in a cultural vacuum curated by far-right, intolerant Christian values. I have 3 public school children- one in elementary , one in middle, and one in high school. It is my duty, as their parent, to supervise and direct what they are exposed to. I may choose to allow my children to read literature that others consider too advanced. I find it very useful to bring up all manner of topics with my children so that we can discuss various issues at length. That is also my right as a parent. I grew up in a very, very sheltered environment. My parents discussed very little worldly things with me. I had a lot to figure out on my own. Did I eventually find my way? Yes. Did the books I read along the way, from both my school and public libraries, show me perspectives that I otherwise wouldn't have pondered? Absolutely. I am not here to say that parents are not allowed to shield their own children from material they deem inappropriate. I am here to say that other parents are not allowed to tell me that I need to shield my children from material they deem inappropriate. What's inappropriate for one is perfectly acceptable for another. Free knowledge means the knowledge of our world remains available for consumption, for all. It is the duty of parents to use their discretion regarding what their children choose to consume. It is not the duty of parents to say what is to be made available to all. This Bill is an extension of the fascist tendencies creeping into our state and national legislation. Let's make our world more democratic and more diverse, not the other way around. The efforts of an entitled few to attempt to wield their self-appointed moral authority over the rest of the community at large goes against the ideals of freedom and liberty. As the elections on May 3rd, 2025 reveal, the majority of Texas voters agree with my sentiment. This world is not made better by an empowered few telling everyone else what to think and feel. While I believe most parents have their children's best interest at heart, I do not believe that other parents consistently have my children's best interest at heart. A just and vital society is one in which many ways of thinking flow, from different perspectives and with different goals. Like incest and in-breeding, if we all read the same things about the same people, and we're all expected to have the same reaction, then we're certain to wind up intellectually stunted. I have no problem with a family's choice to prioritize what they want their children to consume, so long as they equally respect my right as a responsible, hard-working parent to prioritize what I want my children to have access to for their consumption. If a parent finds a book offensive, it's their responsibility to protect their children from it. Please vote No on SB 13. Thanks.

Chloe Kempf, Attorney

ACLU of Texas

Houston, TX

Dear Chair Buckley and Members of the House Committee on Public Education:

We urge you to oppose Senate Bill 13, which risks infringing on students' First Amendment rights by facilitating viewpoint-based book removals, severely delaying the book acquisition process, and devaluing the input of trained librarians and educators.

SB 13 would create vague and overbroad categories of books to be banned in public school libraries and mandate that school districts create advisory councils to make recommendations for book acquisitions, removals, and challenges. The constitutional infirmities and bureaucratic hurdles of this bill are numerous and dangerous. For example, the bill would add "library material containing indecent content or profane content" to a list of materials that must be prohibited by The Texas State Library and Archives Commission's mandatory school library collection policies. But the bill's definitions of profane and indecent content are borrowed from FCC broadcast standards and fall short of the obscenity and harmful to minors legal standards. Indeed, the Supreme Court has noted that applying these broadcast standards to books would likely be unconstitutional. The Court has repeatedly emphasized that "of all forms of communication, it is broadcasting that has received the most limited First Amendment protection." *F.C.C. v. Pacifica Found.*, 438 U.S. 726, 748 (1978). It noted that broadcast media is unique because of its "pervasive presence in the lives of all Americans," and because it is uniquely accessible to young children in part because even children who are "too young to read" could be inadvertently exposed to indecent broadcasts. *Id.* at 748-49. "Patently offensive, indecent material presented over the airwaves confronts the citizen, not only in public, but also in the privacy of the home[.]" *Id.* This analysis clearly sets broadcast media apart from books. A book can't invade the privacy of the home just because someone left the TV or radio on. A book has to be checked out of the library on an optional basis (which, under this bill would require parental notification), opened, and read by a child old enough to read the material.

In contrast, the Supreme Court has approved of the definition of "material harmful to minors" used by Texas penal code for books in *Ginsberg v. State of N. Y.*, 390 U.S. 629 (1968). In order to balance the goals of keeping truly harmful materials out of the hands of youth and protecting students' rights to access information, Texas should keep its "harmful material" standard and reject all mentions of profane or indecent content as applied to books. Without this balance, many classic works of literature like *Catcher in the Rye*, *Catch-22*, *Of Mice and Men*, *The Things They Carried*, *To Kill a Mockingbird*, *Huckleberry Finn*, *The Color Purple* could be unconstitutionally censored.

Respectfully Submitted – Chloe Kempf, ACLU of Texas

Clairissa Moore

Self

Waxahachie, TX

Yes!

Chris Jackson

Self

Keller, TX

I fully support SB13 as a Father of 18

Month year old and guardian of a 15 year sister, I abhor explicit material in our schools. My sister has shared her disinterest in reading books at school largely due to the selection and inappropriate material that is offered. Our children should not have to be bombard with sexually explicit material in school. If we allow this to continue we are condoning what is placed inside of these books.

Michelle Austin

Self

Lindale, TX

Why SB 13 Matters

SB13 fixes the READER Act by:

Setting clear content standards

Creating consistent review procedures

Ensuring accountability at all levels

Establishing parent-majority advisory councils

Providing oversight of library materials

Lupe Palacios

Self - librarian

Pasadena, TX

House bill 13 by Paxton will be discussed today. The purpose of the bill is: ban sexually explicit content from school libraries (already happening), create a parent committee to select books for libraries, school board approves which books go in (kind of already happens), and any parent can challenge a book.

You can submit a public comment. I will drop the link in the comments. Here is what mine said:

I strongly oppose this bill, which creates a parent committee to control access to books in schools and bans any book a publisher labels as “sexually explicit.” This is not about protecting children—this is about censorship, plain and simple. And it’s dangerous.

Texas is already failing when it comes to literacy. Our students are struggling to read, and instead of investing in more support, resources, and qualified librarians, we’re proposing a bill that takes books away from them? That’s not protecting kids—that’s setting them up to fail.

We already have trained professionals—librarians—who have earned degrees and built careers around selecting appropriate, diverse, and enriching books for students. They know how to choose books that support learning and meet students where they are. This bill completely disregards their expertise and replaces it with a process driven by personal opinions, politics, and fear.

Giving a small group of parents the power to decide what all children can read is not democratic—it’s authoritarian. Parents already have the right to guide their own children’s reading. But they should not have the power to control what other people’s children can access. Public schools serve all students, not just those whose parents shout the loudest.

And let’s be honest: the books being targeted are overwhelmingly by and about people of color, LGBTQ+ individuals, and historically marginalized communities. This bill will make it even easier to silence those voices. That’s not about protecting children—that’s about erasing them. It’s racist. It’s exclusionary. And it’s wrong.

Even worse, many of the people challenging these books haven’t even read them. They go after titles based on headlines or quotes taken out of context, not on thoughtful reading or understanding. Why are we letting people who won’t even read the books decide what stays on the shelves?

We should be expanding access to books, not banning them. We should be listening to educators and librarians, not undermining them. And we should be lifting up all students with stories that reflect the full richness of our world—not trying to control what they see, hear, and learn.

Reject this bill. Trust the professionals.

Sharon Tryon

Self

Waxahachie, TX

I support this bill

Stefanie Davis

EISD

Ennis, TX

SB 13 is a school library bill that has the potential to devastate our public school libraries by introducing new overly-broad categories of prohibited books and placing purchasing and reconsideration oversight into the hands of a few politically, possibly biased, appointed community member volunteers. This bill will subsequently make it easier for school districts to target and remove books about people of color and involving LGBTQ+ characters. These characters are representative of the school community, including students themselves. Our communities are diverse and that's the power and beauty of the communities to have so many different experiences available for our students to learn from.

Teri Bates

Self

Corsicana, TX

Please vote in support of SB 13. We need all inappropriate materials out of school libraries. Children's innocence must be protected.

Heather Lowe

self, librarian

Dallas, TX

SB 13 claims to add methods for parental engagement and methods for ensuring materials available in school libraries are age-appropriate. However, policies, procedures, and requirements for both goals already exist in our school libraries. The proposed law unnecessarily burdens school librarians by adding a complex bureaucracy to their collection development and maintenance. SB 13 adds an artificially formal and complicated process to the procurement of library materials that will both be costly and time-consuming. The need to process every library procurement through a governing body will reduce school libraries' ability to respond to classroom learning needs in a timely manner. Large school systems like the ones that serve the residents of Dallas place hundreds of orders for thousands of books every year. The need to garner approval by a School Library Advisory Council for each one places an immense obstacle to support learning outcomes in the school library, and it does so needlessly, as parents already have existing avenues to provide guidance and feedback.

In school systems where this type of oversight has been implemented, it has completely derailed the purchase of new materials for over a year. Texas children deserve better than to be relegated to a small selection of outdated materials to support their education while a handful of appointed elected officials fight over reading materials.

Kevin A Hale

Libertarian Party of Dallas County

Dallas, TX

Defending Free Expression, Local Autonomy, and Parental Choice Without State Coercion

SB 13 mandates the creation of local school library advisory councils, expands state-level restrictions on school library materials, and grants broad authority to reject or remove materials deemed "harmful," "indecent," or "profane." It further requires school districts to prohibit student access to challenged materials until formal reviews are complete. These sweeping mandates represent a government-imposed censorship regime that tramples on local control, voluntary association, and the individual rights of families and students.

Free Expression Is a Core Libertarian Value

The Libertarian Party of Texas believes that the state must not censor peaceful content or suppress ideas based on moral, political, or ideological objections (Platform § I.1.a, Word and Thought). SB 13 enshrines viewpoint-based censorship into law, permitting the exclusion of books based on vague standards and the perceived "background" of authors or characters. This is an affront to the principles of liberty and a free marketplace of ideas.

Top-Down Bureaucracy Undermines Local and Parental Authority

While SB 13 claims to respect parental rights, it actually undermines them by replacing individualized parental decision-making with centralized district-wide bans. LPTexas supports educational freedom through voluntary, localized solutions—such as school choice and individual opt-outs—not blanket government mandates (Platform § II.2.a, General Education). True parental rights are exercised by families, not enforced by state agencies through coerced compliance.

State Control of School Libraries Violates the Non-Aggression Principle

SB 13 uses the coercive power of the state to police content, enforce conformity, and penalize schools for allowing access to certain materials. This violates the Libertarian Non-Aggression Principle by initiating force against peaceful educational institutions and the communities they serve (Platform – Statement of Principles). Imposing content bans through legal mandates is not a neutral protection of children—it is aggressive censorship through law.

Conclusion

The Libertarian Party of Texas opposes SB 13 as a dangerous expansion of state censorship into the educational sphere. This bill weaponizes the law to restrict free expression, override local governance, and suppress the intellectual autonomy of students and families. We urge lawmakers to reject SB 13 and instead pursue policies that empower families, respect local control, and protect the rights of all Texans to read, learn, and think freely.

Scott Riegler

Self

Frisco, TX

This is common sense please push this through !!!!

Yvette Llorance

self

Houston, TX

I support SB 13. No more hiding the porn the school is supplying to sexualize minors. Parents should have access to all materials schools are presenting to or making available to their children.

Elizabeth Walters

Self/student

Fort Worth, TX

Hi, my name is Elizabeth Walters and I'm waiting to urge the committee to vote no on SB13, the Library Advisory Committee bill. As a (parent/Texan/voter) and school library supporter, I am asking you to oppose this bill because it would give a few politically appointed parents decision making power over what books all students in a community have access to. I would like my district to focus on improving math and reading scores instead of worrying about controlling library books. Also, Texas already passed HB 900- a school library bill- that school districts are still working to figure out and implement- so we don't need another one. Please protect our students' right to read and vote NO on this bill.

Caryn Moore, Self

Self

Waxahachie, TX

I strongly support this bill, SB 13.

Natalie Weston, Dr.

Self, Physician

Austin, TX

Senate Bill 13 is an all-out attack on truth, freedom, and the right of every child to see themselves in the books they read. Texas should refuse to accept that. The councils proposed could easily be infiltrated by bad actors seeking to censor materials about any specific group of people. This advisory board would then have the power to approve or deny all library material purchases. Parents already have the right to choose what their kids read in school—this bill is book banning, plain and simple. Reject this bill.

Rebecca Novotny, Dr.

Self, Librarian

The Woodlands, TX

Good evening, my name is Dr. Rebecca Novotny, and I'm reaching out regarding SB13, the Library Advisory Committee bill. As a Texan, a voter, a librarian, a teacher, and a school library supporter, I am asking you to oppose this bill because it would give a few politically appointed parents decision-making power over what books all students in a community have access to. I want my district to focus on improving math and reading scores, improving college and career readiness, and supporting lifelong learners instead of worrying about controlling library books. Also, Texas already passed HB 900- a school library bill- that school districts are still working to figure out and implement, so we don't need another one. HB 900 also has strict rules of what can be placed in school libraries, as well as a strong plan for the challenge of materials that a parent might question. HB 900 also provides ALL parents with the right and opportunity to monitor and support their students' reading choices without infringing on the rights of other parents that SB13 will take away. It also requires that a certified librarian be the one that handles collection development in the library. In the state of Texas, school librarians must also be certified teachers, this means a Texas school librarian is certified by the state twice in order to do their job of supporting students' learning by connecting the books in the library to the curriculum and students' interests. This would be lost under SB13 as untrained and uncertified, politically appointed parents would be in charge of approving all books for the library and are able to push their personal beliefs and agendas on all students in the district, even if they run counter to the needs of the students in the district. That would be a disservice to the students, parents, and educators of Texas. Please vote "no" on SB 13 if when comes up for a committee vote. Thank you.

Thelma Baeza, Ms.

Self

Pasadena, TX

I strongly oppose this bill, which creates a parent committee to control access to books in schools and bans any book a publisher labels as “sexually explicit.” This is not about protecting children—this is about censorship, plain and simple. And it’s dangerous.

Texas is already failing when it comes to literacy. Our students are struggling to read, and instead of investing in more support, resources, and qualified librarians, we’re proposing a bill that takes books away from them? That’s not protecting kids—that’s setting them up to fail.

We already have trained professionals—librarians—who have earned degrees and built careers around selecting appropriate, diverse, and enriching books for students. They know how to choose books that support learning and meet students where they are. This bill completely disregards their expertise and replaces it with a process driven by personal opinions, politics, and fear.

Giving a small group of parents the power to decide what all children can read is not democratic—it’s authoritarian. Parents already have the right to guide their own children’s reading. But they should not have the power to control what other people’s children can access. Public schools serve all students, not just those whose parents shout the loudest.

And let’s be honest: the books being targeted are overwhelmingly by and about people of color, LGBTQ+ individuals, and historically marginalized communities. This bill will make it even easier to silence those voices. That’s not about protecting children—that’s about erasing them. It’s racist. It’s exclusionary. And it’s wrong.

Even worse, many of the people challenging these books haven’t even read them. They go after titles based on headlines or quotes taken out of context, not on thoughtful reading or understanding. Why are we letting people who won’t even read the books decide what stays on the shelves?

We should be expanding access to books, not banning them. We should be listening to educators and librarians, not undermining them. And we should be lifting up all students with stories that reflect the full richness of our world—not trying to control what they see, hear, and learn.

Reject this bill. Trust the professionals. And give our kids the freedom—and the tools—to read, learn, and grow.

Bette Chapman, Mrs.

Self

Lake Worth, TX

Please support this bill in order to strengthen HB900. We must protect our children from inappropriate material.

Danna Lamb-Vines

Self

Lubbock, TX

I oppose this bill. Local control over decisions regarding inappropriate books in public school libraries is necessary starting with school librarians who have professional training in age appropriate fiction and non-fiction materials as well as knowledge of the communities the school districts serve.

An outside statewide committee choosing library materials and school boards having to read all possible new additions is impersonal and extremely cumbersome. That seems designed to limit reading materials for our Texas children and in the process degrading the quality of their education.

Please do not pass this bill out of committee!

Lois McDougall, Mrs

Self

Little Elm, TX

This bill needs amending. What good is the READER Act if it has no enforcement ability? It needs to include civil penalties or funding consequences for non-compliance. As of now there is no incentive to abide by the bill. Vote for SB 13.

Robert Canright, Mr.

Self

Plano, TX

Dear Public Education Committee members,
I am supporting SB 13 and ask you to vote for it in your committee.

Here is a short list of reasons for you to support this bill.

The bill sets clear content standards.

The bill creates good review procedures.

The bill establishes parent-majority advisory councils.

The bill provides oversight of library materials.

The bill makes for compliance with the Children's Internet Protection Act (Pub. L. No.A106-554)

The bill gives parents access to (1) the school library catalog and (2) to their child's access to certain materials.

Thank you,

Robert Canright of Plano, Texas in Collin County

Lucy Podmore

Self

san antonio, TX

SB13 removes a parent's right to choose what their child is reading . Even though a librarian must use guidelines already set by the district, state and federal law before purchasing books, this bill is asking parents who are unfamiliar with a specific school community to review and approve those purchases. This bill will silence the voices of parents who are district employees, LGBTQ families and other families represented by books targeted for removal. If this is truly a bill about parental choice, let's have individual parents decide what books their child should have access to instead of a small group that does not represent the whole.

SB13 takes away the flexibility a librarian has to tailor a collection to fit the needs of their community. The ISBN match requirement poses a problem for our students with special needs - large print books have a different ISBN than standard sized print books as do audiobooks for our students who have a need for audio support; Different bindings such as hardcover, paperback or library binding also have different ISBNs.

Immediate needs purchases are also prohibited in this bill. For example, if a student needs a specific book to prepare for an upcoming academic assignment or competition, the librarian is unable to provide a student with those necessary materials in less than 30-60 days. Please don't create roadblocks to learning which would happen if SB13 is passed. Vote no on SB13.

Marty Hiles

Christian Empowerment Advocate

New Braunfels, TX

Parents & community should have thr right to choose books & bad at access to the catalog. Having hardcore porn books is morally wrong & a liability for schools.& community public library.

Kelly Ellis
self-writer
Houston, TX

The America I believe in does not ban books and does not put those least capable of educating children in charge of their curriculum. If this bill is passed, it is just another example of suppression that is quickly transforming our country into a dystopian society where mind control beginning in childhood renders disenfranchised citizens incapable of critical thinking and thus malleable and submissive to the corrupt people in the Texas government who have no regard for the common people and seek only their own wealth and self-interest at the expense of others. It is just another way to create an intellectually impoverished people who can be easily manipulated by these self-serving despots whose agenda takes precedence over the wellbeing of our children and of society at large.

Mary Bone
Self Capital Area Conservative Republicans Club
Round Rock, TX

Strongly FOR this bill.

Sarah Wilpitz, Mrs.
self
Dallas, TX

Please support SB 13 which strengthens and clarifies the READER act. This will also stop inappropriate books from being in the schools. SB 13 needs to get out of committee and onto the floor for a vote. Thank you!

Andrew H
Self, data analyst
Austin, TX

My name is Andrew, and I am alumni of the Texas public school system, currently living in Travis County. I am wholeheartedly against this bill, as it is a direct challenge on truth and the freedom of Texas students and their education. This bill suggests that politicians know better about what children should read than librarians or teachers, all to fuel a nonexistent culture war between Texas families. Shameful.

If y'all actually want to protect children, you should be increasing funding for public schools and increasing teacher pay. What this bill will really amount to is banning books in libraries and public schools, which doesn't sound like freedom of speech to me.

The voucher scam they just passed proves these people don't care about Texas public schools and public school students. This bill is another thinly veiled attempt to strip more freedoms away from Texas parents and public school students.

I urge the committee and anyone reading this to OPPOSE this bill.

Thank you for your time.

Elizabeth Oliver
Self, public librarian
Argyle, TX

Hello, my name is Elizabeth Oliver, and I am a youth librarian in North Texas, as well as the parent of an avid reader who is now a young adult.

Jessica Young, Mrs.

Self / Author

Missouri City, TX

My name is Jessica Young. I'm an author whose books are in school libraries. I'm also the mother of a 4-year-old daughter named Harper Lee — named after the author whose frequently-targeted novel taught me things I hope she grows to understand: courage, integrity, and empathy. SB13 threatens to take those lessons away from today's students.

Let's be clear: this bill is not about protecting children. It is about controlling them —controlling what they can read, what they can imagine, and ultimately, who they can become.

This bill doesn't trust trained educators or librarians, instead replacing their expertise with politics. It turns school boards into censors and parents into surveillance monitors. In doing so, it sends a message to children that curiosity is dangerous and truth must be filtered.

As a mother, I want my daughter to grow up with access to stories that help her understand the fullness of humanity — not just what loud, well-funded voices approve of.

And as an author, I worry that stories like mine, and those of my peers — especially pride authors and writers of color — will be taken from shelves not because they're inappropriate, but because they reflect real, diverse experiences.

But I believe in something better.

I believe in raising children who are brave thinkers.

I believe in libraries where every child can find both a mirror and a window.

And I believe that fear should never dictate what knowledge our kids can access.

Threat: SB13 is not just a policy. It's a threat to creativity and to truth.

I urge you to vote no.

Patricia Everett

Self

Fort Worth, TX

As a Texan, a taxpayer, and a parent of a child who is public school student, I am asking you to oppose SB 13. It has been devastating to see the continuous attacks on public schools, books, and librarians these last several years – and this bill sadly is another one. Why should a small group of politically appointed parents get to decide what books my child has access to at their school's library? We have librarians who are trained professionals for a reason. And what exactly will be considered profane or "grossly offensive"? Will it be a book that features anything about the human body or a book that has cusswords or a story that features LBGQTQ+ characters? I worry about what information will be inaccessible and whose stories will be silenced. I understand wanting to protect children, but this approach is not the answer; books are not the problem. As someone who served as a teacher at a Texas public high school, I will share that my most troubled students were not readers and nor did they spend much time at the school library. Many of our children here in Texas are dealing with real issues such as poverty, homelessness, abuse, mental issues, and health concerns. I ask you to reject this bill and spend time on the real issues.

John Murray

self retired

Austin, TX

PLEASE VOTE YES FOR SB 13. I am a parent of 7 children. I know the importance of being in control of their upbringing. It's EXTREMELY important that ya'll support me in this. thank you for supporting me in this.

Emily Wilpitz

Self

Dallas, TX

Please support this bill to ensure that inappropriate content does not enter our public schools. This bill will provides guidelines and ensure parental oversight over the content allowed in public school libraries.

Sam Pedrotty
self, engineer
league city, TX

This bill presents a bizarre overreach by the State into what schools can make available to students and puts local business and clergy at the helm of those decisions by including them to the school library advisory council. There is no issue with the current availability of materials and their selection. This will actively misalign public education and the needs of the community.

Sharon Harris, Dr
Self, Retired Instructor of Writing
Irving, TX

I oppose SB 13 for 3 reasons: it takes away local control by giving a small group of community members the power to decide what library materials all students can access; meeting only twice per school year to create a list of approved and rejected materials will create a bottleneck in ordering and acquiring new books and resources--wasting tax payers' dollars; it will allow ideologically driven members of the committee to decide what materials should be in libraries--without the benefit of librarians' training in reading readiness and variety.

If we desire higher reading scores and work-force and college readiness, then we want students to read more books, and read widely, not fewer books with narrow perspectives.

Vote against SP13.

Sincerely,
Sharon A. Harris, PhD

Steve Newton, Rev
Myself a 7th generation Texan
Nacogdoches, TX

Please defeat SB-13 and keep our libraries institutions of free thought. It is our freedom of thought that contributes to our greatness as a nation.

Tracy Shannon
self
Kingwood, TX

Children deserve to be protected and parental rights must be respected. I support the bill.

Stephen Zarate
Self
Maypearl, TX

In full support of this bill

Adele Nelson, Dr.
Self
Austin, TX

Dear members of the Public Education Committee, My name is Adele Nelson and I write to oppose SB13, the Library Advisory Committee bill. As a parent and school library supporter, I am asking you to oppose this bill because it would give a few politically appointed parents decision making power over what books all students in a community have access to. I would like my district to focus on improving math and reading scores instead of worrying about controlling library books. Also, Texas already passed HB 900- a school library bill- that school districts are still working to figure out and implement- so we don't need another one. Please vote "no" on SB 13. Thank you.

Krista Varney

Self

Grand Prairie, TX

Senate Bill 13 is an all-out attack on truth, freedom, and the right of every child to see themselves in the books they read. SB 13 empowers political appointees and bad actors to decide what our kids can and can't read. It's censorship targeting LGBTQIA+ youth and communities of color under the false banner of "parental control." Librarians and educators shouldn't be forced to act as censorship police. They should be trusted to guide students, not having to risk their careers for offering honest, inclusive learning. Lawmakers pushing SB 13 aren't protecting children. They're policing identity, targeting families, and fueling a culture war. SB 13 would actively harm students, particularly those who are already most vulnerable to bullying, isolation, and erasure. Books can be a lifeline for children who might feel alone in their experiences and working through their identity or other issues.

Students deserve:

Access to books that reflect who they are.

Exposure to diverse perspectives and real-world ideas.

The support of qualified educators and librarians, not censorship from politically driven school boards.

Elizabeth Alanis

Self

Houston, TX

On average, I read 90 books a year. I read large and wide: Fiction, non-fiction and a range of all topics. As an educator for twenty-three years, I would love students to read, but this is something that happens less and less. They don't have the stamina nor the interest to read any book beyond one page.

It's interesting that what Paxton and those on the right fear most is the power of books to influence ideas and behaviors. What these politicians seem to forget is that kids don't read. Take one look at where Texas places in regard to education in the nation. Take a look at STAAR scores over the last five years. Take a look at the state's inability to retain quality, certified teachers.

When you give those that don't read the ability to censure what other students can read, you run the risk of eliminating reading altogether. What offends one, may not offend another. What is deemed "inappropriate" by one may not be by another. This is the beauty of that word the right loves to throw around: freedom. Paxton and his ilk claim to support parents' rights, but don't seem to trust a parent to determine what their child can or cannot read. When a small group that doesn't represent all sides gets to decide what goes on the library shelf, it takes the take power away from those that don't have a seat at the table: students. Parents can access the catalog to the library at will. They can see what their son/daughter is reading by simply asking. They are even welcome to read the book and foster open dialogue and discussion with their child.

Reading builds empathy and gets the brain connecting synapses. If the idea is that reading a book about someone that is gay can in turn make a child gay, wouldn't that mean that all of the queer children living in a heteronormative world reading books depicting straight couples would then turn straight? If your fear is keeping explicit content from young impressionable minds, you should start legislation that regulates Instagram, Tik Tok, YouTube and the digital spaces where kids find themselves. I wonder how many of your children or grandchildren don't have social media. I wonder how many of you read the books your kids brings home. How many actually read to your grandchildren. The fear your raise is always steeped in alarmism. I'd love for a student to read a book from cover to cover. I'd love to hear their thoughts on what they read. These instances are rare and becoming rarer. Consider getting teachers a pay raise or offering early education for everyone. Don't attack the very basis of learning.

Libraries are how we learn about one another. People, places and cultures that are different from our own. We are not all the same. That should be something we celebrate.

Pamela Wade

Self

Tyler, TX

Please move SB 13 out of committee & onto the floor for a vote. This bill strengthens & clarifies the Reader Act. HB 900 has not delivered the results that Texas parents expected. SB 13 will help to make sure that inappropriate books are not placed in our schools & I support this bill.

Rebecca Calzada

self

Leander, TX

Senate Bill 13 (SB 13) proposes changes to how Texas school libraries purchase new titles. This bill introduces concerns that would impact the effectiveness of school libraries in supporting student learning.

Advisory Council Composition and Selection: SB 13 requires each school district to establish a Local School Library Advisory Councils (LSLAC) consisting of 5 members, with a majority being parents of students enrolled in the district & not employed by the district. This raises questions about which school board members get to choose the parents who will serve on the council. In districts with 7 or 9 board members, this could lead to unequal representation and potential conflicts of interest.

Qualifications and Training of Advisory Council Members: The bill does not specify qualifications or training requirements for members of the LSLAC. Impacts include subjective, personal biases being shared about books appropriateness. Without training, members may not be equipped to evaluate materials based on educational value, literary merit or user appeal.

Capacity of a Small Council to Review Extensive Materials: In large ISDs, the volume of library materials purchased yearly is substantial. In a school district with 45 schools, over 4,200 new print/digital titles are purchased annually. The LSLAC would struggle to review and approve the materials in a timely manner, delaying the availability of new books for students.

Supporting Instructional Needs & Timely Access: School libraries play a crucial role in supporting instructional needs of students. Delays in acquiring necessary materials would hinder the ability of libraries to support literacy objectives. The requirement to post library orders for public comment for 30 days before approval could also delay the acquisition of new and popular titles.

Opening Day Collections for New Schools: A new school library requires a significant purchase of new books. An elementary library may require 9,000 titles, and a high school library may require up to 15,000 titles. The LSLAC may not have the capacity to review and approve these extensive collections before the school year begins, potentially delaying the opening of the library.

Barriers to Efficient Purchasing Processes: Adding layers of review for purchase creates barriers to a school library's ability to purchase library materials, negatively impacting student learning.

Erosion of Local Control: SB 13 removes local control from school boards by imposing state-mandated procedures for library material approval. This shift undermines the ability of school boards to create policies tailored to the specific needs and values of their communities.

Conclusion: The lack of clarity for advisory council member selection & qualifications, the potential for delays in material purchases & the added administrative burdens will hinder the ability of school libraries to effectively support student learning. Consider these factors & maintain student access.

Alison Westermann
Self, delivery driver
El Paso, TX

SB 13 would overhaul the way public school libraries select and review materials. Here's how:

Censorship Through Vendor Ratings: The bill bans any materials rated as “sexually explicit” by book vendors, a vague and subjective standard. This echoes parts of House Bill 900 from 2023, which was struck down in court. That bill forced private individuals and corporations (book vendors) into compliance with “a web of unconstitutionally vague requirements” in violation of the First Amendment.

Parent-Dominated “Library Advisory Councils”: SB 13 requires each school district to form a “Library Advisory Council, primarily made up of parents, that can influence what materials are purchased, stay, or go. This opens the door to discriminatory extremists making decisions about what books Texas public school students can access, like the Katy parent who asked her district to remove a children’s biography of Michelle Obama on the grounds that it promoted “reverse racism.”

School Board Control, Not Librarian Expertise: Decisions about library content would rest not with trained librarians or educators, but with politically motivated school boards, many of which are increasingly under pressure from far-right agendas or being outright taken over by far-right board members with funding from corporate and extremist PACs.

More Book Challenges Disproportionately Targeting LGBTQIA+ Stories: Parents would not only be allowed to restrict their own child’s access to certain materials and receive notification of each book they check out or otherwise use outside of the library, but they would also be able to challenge books available to ANY child. This opens the floodgates for frivolous and hateful challenges targeting inclusive and affirming books.

It is dangerous and disingenuous to try to twist the words "parental rights" into something that is a weapon being used to take rights away from other parents with respect to their own children. Furthermore, it is a burden that Texas taxpayers shouldn't be forced to bear on behalf of a very small minority of right-wing conservatives. If you don't want your kids reading certain things, fine. But don't tell my kids what they can/can't read.

Ana Paulina Karlsson
Self
Denton, TX

I want each of you to approve and vote yes for this important bill SB13. Thank you

Gillian Parker
Self
Austin, TX

I oppose SB13 as it infringes on student’s education and development, and puts the most vulnerable students at further risk of abuse. Parental rights sound like a great idea, until one considers that not all parents fulfill their parental duties. When parents fail, the state steps in, and the first line of defense are public schools where students may access basic services and begin to develop their own sense of identity and skills. Allowing parents full access to their students psychological records and library materials would allow parents to punish their children for defying their parents, or entirely discourage students from opening up about any abuse they may experience at home. Please vote no and protect Texas’ students safety and intellectual freedom.

Mary Ellen Scribner, Ms.

Self - Retired English teacher and high school librarian

Austin, TX

Under present laws, procedures, and practices, the books currently on school library shelves have survived rigorous selection measures beginning with the publishers who are well aware of legal content standards, followed by evaluation by a variety of critical organizations such as Austin's own Kirkus Reviews, and finally by school librarians who have both teacher and librarian certifications and a master's degree in library and information science. These professional educators spend many hours on book selection relying on their training, the previously mentioned selection guides, and a thorough knowledge of the needs and values of their school population. At its heart SB 13 is a censorship bill that ignores what is already a healthy system of book selection. SB 13 is extreme censorship and cultural prejudice in the guise of parents choosing what is best for their children—which they have long had the rights and procedures to do. What supporters of this bill really want to do is make those choices for everyone's children—yours, mine, the transgender Asian genius kid next door, the gay kids, the Muslim kids, anyone not “like” them. It is the backbone of the “thought control” attempts to strip school libraries and curricula of meaningful content that helps students develop a healthy self-image and world view. It creates new and unconstitutional categories for censorship: vaguely defined “patently offensive” content, without constitutional safeguards; and material containing profanity, again without constitutional safeguards. Please vote against this cruel and unnecessary piece of legislation.

Debbie Loveall

self / retired

Nash, TX

PLEASE get SB 13 passed out of Committee and thru Calendars to be voted on by the full House. It is of vital importance to protect children from being exposed to sexually explicit books in our public schools. Texas citizens do not want want our tax dollars funding schools that allow dirty books on the shelves. Filthy books in our public schools is probably the #1 reason parents want to get their children out of public schools; why they are pushing so hard for school choice and home-schooling.

Kim Horton
Self, retired teacher
Weatherford, TX

Dear Representatives of the Education Committee,

Thank you for taking time to read this.

As a person who cares about our next generation coming through our public schools, I am reminded that what you put into your mind and brain is what you can eventually see in a life.

Does pornographic pictures and words ever leave a mind? Or a very young mind?

I believe as educators, we should feed these young minds the best of the best old classic literature and even pictures in books should be godly teaching good morals, if we want generations coming out of our public schools to know good morals and have wisdom.

Good books widens our minds but it should do so in a good sense of the word and never dragging minds down to a very immoral and debased place.

We don't need books in our school libraries to pull young minds down to a degrading place and bring with it immoral concepts for any reason. There is enough of it in the world as it is. That is not an educator's job or a school librarian's job!

Children need to see and read about more godly characters in books to teach and present goodness and help them to hold firm to godly principals so we can have a generation coming up who can be good and wise.

We are responsible. We set the tone and give direction. Let's protect our children in our public schools and give them the best books of the old godly standard. It served us well then and it can do it again.

I am reminded of Philippians 4:8 and maybe you will be reminded too. Paul reminds us that we should think on good things, pure things, honest things, just things, lovely things, good reports and if there be any virtue or any praise, we should think on these things. That would be a great place to start no matter your age!

We never want to hurt a child's mind but to bring that child up in goodness and virtue and neither do we want to usurp a parent's authority but walk beside them to producing a godly young man or a young woman fit and empowered to lead the next generation in wisdom and goodness.

You know people who are in charge of spotting counterfeit money are never given counterfeits to study but are given the best perfect pieces to study so they can quickly spot any imperfections in counterfeit money. Let's give children the best in godly and great literature to fill their mind as they go through their public education on our watch. Then as young adults, they will be able to spot immorality and ungodliness and choose wisely.

Thank you for your time in reading this.

God bless each of you and may you stand for the right things today for God and country.

Vote favorably for SB 13!!

Blessings,
Mrs. Kim Horton

Bettie Gray
Self
Waxahachie, TX

I SUPPORT this bill.

Wendy Hackert

Self

Leander, TX

Parents already have the right to decide what their child can and cannot read. Establishing an advisory council would make it practically impossible for trained librarians to purchase books in a timely manner. This would do nothing other than impede librarians in their job of instilling a deep love of reading in students. VOTE NO!

MICHELLE EVANS

WILLIAMSON COUNTY REPUBLICAN PARTY

GEORGETOWN, TX

STRONGLY SUPPORT

Scott Sheriff, Mr

Myself

Cedar Park, TX

We don't need big government micromanaging our school libraries. We already have qualified, dedicated professionals doing a great job today. This bill solves a problem that doesn't exist by substituting agenda-driven zealots instead of dedicated professionals. Leave our school libraries alone!

Susan Cuculic

Self - Retired Teacher

Nacogdoches, TX

This overreaching bill is just going to make it even more difficult for schools to have any books on the shelves that students even can read, much less want to read. The process is too cumbersome, vague, and just ridiculous. Leave the library contents to the librarians/schools and the choices to the parents.

Sandra Chesshir

Self

Troup, TX

Please pass this. Retired school librarian

Amanda Ratcliff, Dr.

Self

Troup, TX

I support SB 13. Please help protect our children.

Michelle Boyd

Self

Austin, TX

NO

Jade Wray

Self

Troup, TX

I'm a mother of four in public schools and I support this bill please pass sb 13

Jamie Wright, Mrs

Self

Cedar Park, TX

Vote no! We want students to read and think and be successful. This bill makes it much too hard for school libraries to get books their students want to read. Librarians spend hours talking to students and reading reviews and making choices for their collections and populations. No committee for an entire district or campus will be willing to put in that time, so students will end up with unappealing, outdated titles by the time the committee's generic lists come out. Librarians are hard working good people. There's no need for this bill.

Please don't vote for this- the majority of voters don't want it and it would lead to a less effective workforce. We want students to read! Let's not put up barriers to that.

Bianca Arvin-Eagle

Self

Lago Vista, TX

I OPPOSE SB 18. This bill hides behind more child protection and parental rights rhetoric but amounts to book banning. That the libraries in question are school libraries is enough of a distinction for which books are appropriate. Devising councils to oversee and dictate libraries collections in any way is redundant- that's already the job of the school librarian, a person with a college degree in their field, and the school itself. Library collections hold the span of the world in them, and it shouldn't be carved down to only reflect the local views and "values"- that's the antithesis of education and exploration. Furthermore, giving parents full access to their child's book history assumes children don't have a right to privacy. Full parental access substitutes exposure for actual parenting, where parents can simply ask their own kids what they've been reading and trust their answers. SB 13 is a version of a book banning and must not pass. OPPOSE SB 13

Deborah Avellano

Self

Corinth, TX

I urge you and the committee members to move SB13 to adoption, so that school children can focus on academics and reading without being confronted with sexually graphic language and images that will distract from the education narrative. This proposed bill should be accepted and advanced with the provision that the following loophole from the READER Act be closed. I thank you for addressing the need to clarify and magnify the 88th Session's HB900 in which some schools found a loophole to avoid removing sexually-explicit, sexually-graphic and profane materials from their library shelves. In HB900 Denton ISD found in Section 2, Section 33.021 amended Standards for School Library collection development, (d)(2)(G) which states "prohibits the removal of material based solely on: (i) ideas contained in the material; or(ii) personal background of: (a)the author of the material; or (b)characters in the material. The Denton ISD Administration used the "Prohibit" clause to cover their bias for holding those books in general circulation when parents attempted to take them off the shelves: Their presentation to the School Board emphasized that the law said they were prohibited. So the Board left the books in the library. I see the language in SB13 creates the same language in Section 3, (d)(2)(G) but adds (H) to comply with the Children's Internet protection Act (Pub. L. No.106-554) and (e) which allows school to set own policies as long as it does not conflict with those stated laws. My concern is that the "Prohibit" clause will remain a loophole. Please verify it will be closed, so that those books can be removed. The bill requires another amendment to provide it more than a scolding or slap on the hand for non-compliance: It must include civil penalties or non-funding consequences for non-compliance. Our children cannot unsee what has been flashed before them; we need to place before them only whatever is true, noble, right, pure, lovely, admirable, excellent and praiseworthy, so they will develop their finest characters. We must protect the children's innocence from a culture that desensitizes life.. Thank you.

Astreia Griggs

Self. School librarian

LEANDER, TX

Vote no

As a librarian with a master's degree in library science and a public educator for 20 years, I am trained on making decisions on age appropriate books for my students.

Vote no

Elizabeth Jones

Myself

Bullard, TX

I approve this bill

Mark Smith

Self

Austin, TX

This bill is flawed in many ways, including the requirement to make library catalogs accessible when most already are and parental notification of what students check out that will inhibit especially older teens from exploring a range of viewpoints. Perhaps most problematic is the creation of redundant parental advisory councils in every district to set selection policy and approve book purchases when sufficient oversight already exists in the form of the district board and state standards for K-12 collections. Empowering one group of parents to make decisions about what books their children can find in the school library will deprive other parents of the right to make those decisions for their children.

All this runs counter to the nature of education. Isn't it the purpose of schools to expose students to a variety of viewpoints and not just those aligned with the dominant opinions of the community? The district already has the authority to remove materials that are deemed harmful to minors. And every district has—or should have—trained library professionals tasked with selecting materials that serve the curricular needs of all students. These review boards, even if well-intentioned, have no such training and will likely make decisions that are not informed by desired learning outcomes, which should be the goal of any K-12 library collection.

A better plan than creating more red tape, redundancy, and restrictions? Trust the training and expertise of professional school librarians selecting books under the guidance of the Texas K-12 Library Standards adopted by TEA and subject to final approval by the school board.

Dana Kellner, Librarian

Self

Cedar Park, TX

VOTE NO

Capacity of a Small Council to Review Extensive Materials: In large ISDs, the volume of library materials purchased yearly is substantial. In a school district with 45 schools, over 4,200 new print and digital titles are purchased annually. The Advisory Council would struggle to review and approve the materials in a timely manner, delaying the availability of new books for students.

Supporting Instructional Needs & Timely Access: School libraries play a crucial role in supporting instructional needs of students. Delays in acquiring necessary materials would hinder the ability of libraries to support literacy objectives. The requirement to post library orders for public comment for 30 days before approval could also delay the acquisition of new and popular titles.

Barriers to Efficient Purchasing Processes: Adding layers of review for purchase creates barriers to a school library's ability to purchase library materials, negatively impacting student learning.

Erosion of Local Control: SB 13 removes local control from school boards by imposing state-mandated procedures for library material approval. This shift undermines the ability of school boards to create policies tailored to the specific needs and values of their communities.

Clay Chambless

Self

Flint, TX

In full support of SB13.

Felicia Wilson

Self

Spring, TX

I oppose SB 13, the library advisory council bill. As a parent, I do not want a council made up of government appointees to have the power to choose the books available in my local schools. That is a huge government overreach. We should be focusing on how to improve math, science and reading scores instead of micromanaging what books are on the shelves. Please vote no on SB 13 to stop government overreach.

Sean Healy, Attorney

Self; attorney

Tyler, TX

This bill is not a book ban. That is a flat-out lie. No one is going to search your house and come seize your books. You will still be able to buy any book you want at Barnes & Noble, or on the Internet. This bill will put an end to schools using your taxpayer money to provide adult material to your child, behind your back. That is indefensible to any person of good conscience. Please pass the bill.

Robert Stein

Self

Bullard, TX

This must be passed for our future gens.

Dorothy Walker

Self

Bullard, TX

Support removing open from our schools

Al Syein

Self

Bullard, TX

As Texas grandparents, we strongly support this bill.

Beth Beard

Self

Bullard, TX

In support of this bill.

Shawna Ford

Self

Aledo, TX

My name is Shawna Ford, and I am a retired educator and librarian with decades of experience supporting students and school communities across Texas. I am writing in opposition to Senate Bill 13 as currently written.

In the last legislative session, House Bill 900 introduced major changes to school library collections and materials review processes. School districts across the state are still working to interpret and implement these requirements. Adding yet another set of mandates through SB 13 will only create further confusion and delays—ultimately reducing students' access to high-quality, up-to-date books.

I am particularly concerned about the provision in SB 13 requiring the creation of a school board-appointed committee to approve all library book purchases. This process could allow a small group of individuals—potentially influenced by personal or political beliefs—to limit access to a wide range of reading materials. Such a system risks undermining the professional expertise of librarians and educators who are trained to select age-appropriate, educational, and engaging books for students.

Rather than helping our schools, SB 13 will likely increase bureaucracy, slow down access to library resources, and weaken trust in the education system. I urge you to reconsider this bill and focus instead on supporting the effective implementation of existing legislation.

Thank you for your time and service.

Marcia Daughtrey, Ms

Self

Tyler, TX

Eliminate dirty books in Children's section of public libraries

Laura Durant, Mrs

Self

Southlake, TX

This bill is un-American. These fascist bills must stop. They are taking the joy out of both school and childhood. Librarians are heroes stop treating them like criminals. Parents already have the right to dictate what their children read, this is government overreach. Hands off our books. Hands off our librarians.

Cyd Seideman

Personal-grandchildren in public schools

Lubbock, TX

Please help move SB 13 out of committee and onto the House floor for a vote. I truly believe this is our responsibility to make sure we allow our country and state to limit access for elementary and middle school aged children to certain books with almost pornographic verbiage until they are of an age to discern or their parents agree to let them read them. Frankly, I just take them out of elementary schools entirely and not even purchase them in the first place unless properly requested by parents. And we need a way to promptly get the books removed. Should that be the decision of the legislature. It's an And we need a way to promptly get the books removed. Should that be the decision of the legislature. It's an overwhelmingly burdensome job to do if it is determined by the local school boards who put onerous regulations before book is vetted and the determined to be removed from access to the children. Thank you for listening. Cyd Seideman

Anne Griffin

Self

Red Oak, TX

I am very much in favor of the passing of SB13. We need these extra layer of protection that provide greater clarification standards and transparency with parental involvement of what reading materials are available for our students.

Linda Fulmer
Self
Fort Worth, TX
Support this bill!

Kel Wilpitz
Self
Dallas, TX
Please support this bill!

Megan Moore
Self
Boerne, TX

The attack on the freedom to read is misguided. Censorship is not the answer and parents have always had the right to review the material their student reads. I do not condone having a limited board of opinions with the ability to remove options they don't agree with.

Rebecca Hughes
Rebecca
FORT WORTH, TX

My name is Rebecca Hughes. I live in Fort Worth, TX. As a grandparent and school library supporter, I am OPPOSED to SB13. This Bill would give politically appointed parents authority over what Books and material students can access at a Public School library. These individuals will follow their religious and political ideologies in deciding what library materials are available. It is censorship done by those who have been selected by politicians and wealthy donors. As a grandmother I strongly recommend Public Schools focus on reading and math skills instead of trying to please a self-righteous politically appointed school library advisory council.

Have you not already destroyed Public Education with your Republican scam voucher program for religious wealthy Texans? God will not be mocked by your continual abuse of Texas children and their right to an education.

Thank you for allowing me to voice my opinion on SB 13.
Rebecca Hughes

Lisa Brenskelle
self
Houston, TX

School librarians have the appropriate training and background to select books for placement in school libraries. Parents, of course, have the right to control what books their children read. A committee/advisory council of parents, however, should not be making this decision for other parents and their children! The TX legislature should let school librarians, who are the competent authority, continue to decide what books are in school libraries. School libraries should include books that speak to all children in the school, including those who are of diverse races, cultures, religions, etc.... This is NOT a situation where a "majority rules" environment is appropriate, as the school library's content MUST reflect all children in the school - lest some children feel excluded and be marginalized.

Alison Hernandez

Self

Leander, TX

Vote No

Capacity of a Small Council to Review Extensive Materials: In large ISDs, the volume of library materials purchased yearly is substantial. In a school district with 45 schools, over 4,200 new print and digital titles are purchased annually. The Advisory Council would struggle to review and approve the materials in a timely manner, delaying the availability of new books for students.

Supporting Instructional Needs & Timely Access: School libraries play a crucial role in supporting instructional needs of students. Delays in acquiring necessary materials would hinder the ability of libraries to support literacy objectives. The requirement to post library orders for public comment for 30 days before approval could also delay the acquisition of new and popular titles.

Barriers to Efficient Purchasing Processes: Adding layers of review for purchase creates barriers to a school library's ability to purchase library materials, negatively impacting student learning.

Erosion of Local Control: SB 13 removes local control from school boards by imposing state-mandated procedures for library material approval. This shift undermines the ability of school boards to create policies tailored to the specific needs and values of their communities.

Ami Uselman

Self

Donie, TX

Vote Nay!

Amber Foulk
Self
Leander, TX

Capacity of a Small Council to Review Extensive Materials: In large ISDs, the volume of library materials purchased yearly is substantial. In a school district with 45 schools, over 4,200 new print and digital titles are purchased annually. The Advisory Council would struggle to review and approve the materials in a timely manner, delaying the availability of new books for students.

Supporting Instructional Needs & Timely Access: School libraries play a crucial role in supporting instructional needs of students. Delays in acquiring necessary materials would hinder the ability of libraries to support literacy objectives. The requirement to post library orders for public comment for 30 days before approval could also delay the acquisition of new and popular titles.

Barriers to Efficient Purchasing Processes: Adding layers of review for purchase creates barriers to a school library's ability to purchase library materials, negatively impacting student learning.

Erosion of Local Control: SB 13 removes local control from school boards by imposing state-mandated procedures for library material approval. This shift undermines the ability of school boards to create policies tailored to the specific needs and values of their communities.

Barriers to Efficient Purchasing Processes: Adding layers of review for purchase creates barriers to a school library's ability to purchase library materials, negatively impacting student learning.

Erosion of Local Control: SB 13 removes local control from school boards by imposing state-mandated procedures for library material approval. This shift undermines the ability of school boards to create policies tailored to the specific needs and values of their communities.

Teresa LaBianxo
Leander ISD
Austin, TX
Vote no

Lisa Healy
Self
Midlothian, TX

I support this bill. Please vote for this bill. Thanks for your consideration.

Keri Burns, Librarian

Self

Leander, TX

Capacity of a Small Council to Review Extensive Materials: In large ISDs, the volume of library materials purchased yearly is substantial. In a school district with 45 schools, over 4,200 new print and digital titles are purchased annually. The Advisory Council would struggle to review and approve the materials in a timely manner, delaying the availability of new books for students.

Supporting Instructional Needs & Timely Access: School libraries play a crucial role in supporting instructional needs of students. Delays in acquiring necessary materials would hinder the ability of libraries to support literacy objectives. The requirement to post library orders for public comment for 30 days before approval could also delay the acquisition of new and popular titles.

Barriers to Efficient Purchasing Processes: Adding layers of review for purchase creates barriers to a school library's ability to purchase library materials, negatively impacting student learning.

Erosion of Local Control: SB 13 removes local control from school boards by imposing state-mandated procedures for library material approval. This shift undermines the ability of school boards to create policies tailored to the specific needs and values of their communities.

Susan Scholz

Self

Cedar Park, TX

Capacity of a Small Council to Review Extensive Materials: In large ISDs, the volume of library materials purchased yearly is substantial. In a school district with 45 schools, over 4,200 new print and digital titles are purchased annually. The Advisory Council would struggle to review and approve the materials in a timely manner, delaying the availability of new books for students.

Supporting Instructional Needs & Timely Access: School libraries play a crucial role in supporting instructional needs of students. Delays in acquiring necessary materials would hinder the ability of libraries to support literacy objectives. The requirement to post library orders for public comment for 30 days before approval could also delay the acquisition of new and popular titles.

Barriers to Efficient Purchasing Processes: Adding layers of review for purchase creates barriers to a school library's ability to purchase library materials, negatively impacting student learning.

Erosion of Local Control: SB 13 removes local control from school boards by imposing state-mandated procedures for library material approval. This shift undermines the ability of school boards to create policies tailored to the specific needs and values of their communities.

Erosion of Local Control: SB 13 removes local control from school boards by imposing state-mandated procedures for library material approval. This shift undermines the ability of school boards to create policies tailored to the specific needs and values of their communities.

Sabrina Hyden
Self
Georgetown, TX

Capacity of a Small Council to Review Extensive Materials: In large ISDs, the volume of library materials purchased yearly is substantial. In a school district with 45 schools, over 4,200 new print and digital titles are purchased annually. The Advisory Council would struggle to review and approve the materials in a timely manner, delaying the availability of new books for students.

Supporting Instructional Needs & Timely Access: School libraries play a crucial role in supporting instructional needs of students. Delays in acquiring necessary materials would hinder the ability of libraries to support literacy objectives. The requirement to post library orders for public comment for 30 days before approval could also delay the acquisition of new and popular titles.

Barriers to Efficient Purchasing Processes: Adding layers of review for purchase creates barriers to a school library's ability to purchase library materials, negatively impacting student learning.

Erosion of Local Control: SB 13 removes local control from school boards by imposing state-mandated procedures for library material approval. This shift undermines the ability of school boards to create policies tailored to the specific needs and values of their communities.

David Hamilton, Board Secretary, Fort Bend ISD
Self
Missouri City, TX

As a Board officer for the Fort Bend Independent School District (the sixth-largest district in Texas with 80,000 students), I and others discovered that our school libraries had content about sex and oral sex with Jesus ("What Girls Are Made Of" by Elana K. Arnold), graphic illustrations of sex acts ("Let's Talk About It" by multiple authors); and romanticized descriptions of children watching child porn ("Oryx and Crake" by Margaret Atwood), child rape ("Push" by Sapphire), and a teacher grooming and raping a 12-year-old student ("Boy Toy" by Barry Lyga).

FBISD employees began rejecting challenge requests - leaving such content on school library shelves - and I believe they did so under advisement that loopholes in Texas law enable school districts to possess obscene and sexually-explicit content - and these loopholes allow school districts to distribute such content to children.

I drafted what has been called the worst library content policy in Texas by proponents of sexually-explicit content in school libraries, and that policy was approved by the FBISD school board with a 5-2 vote in August 2024. The policy enables the administration to remove sexually-explicit content and sets reasonable content standards. Some of the books I referenced above have been removed under the new policy.

However, the two candidates who won our school board elections on May 3rd campaigned against the policy and now join the two dissenting votes. I think the new board will adjust or overturn our library book policy in order to allow FBISD school librarians to purchase obscene, sexually-explicit, and grooming content for FBISD school libraries.

We must protect Texas children from school district employees who have been using Texas taxpayers' money to purchase and distribute this type of content to children in school libraries with little or no parental involvement or consent. Please protect Texas children and their innocence by voting yes on Senate Bill 13.

Zandra Lopez

Self

Austin, TX

Capacity of a Small Council to Review Extensive Materials: In large ISDs, the volume of library materials purchased yearly is substantial. In a school district with 45 schools, over 4,200 new print and digital titles are purchased annually. The Advisory Council would struggle to review and approve the materials in a timely manner, delaying the availability of new books for students.

Supporting Instructional Needs & Timely Access: School libraries play a crucial role in supporting instructional needs of students. Delays in acquiring necessary materials would hinder the ability of libraries to support literacy objectives. The requirement to post library orders for public comment for 30 days before approval could also delay the acquisition of new and popular titles.

Barriers to Efficient Purchasing Processes: Adding layers of review for purchase creates barriers to a school library's ability to purchase library materials, negatively impacting student learning.

Erosion of Local Control: SB 13 removes local control from school boards by imposing state-mandated procedures for library material approval. This shift undermines the ability of school boards to create policies tailored to the specific needs and values of their
Capacity of a Small Council to Review Extensive Materials: In large ISDs, the volume of library materials purchased yearly is substantial. In a school district with 45 schools, over 4,200 new print and digital titles are purchased annually. The Advisory Council would struggle to review and approve the materials in a timely manner, delaying the availability of new books for students.

Supporting Instructional Needs & Timely Access: School libraries play a crucial role in supporting instructional needs of students. Delays in acquiring necessary materials would hinder the ability of libraries to support literacy objectives. The requirement to post library orders for public comment for 30 days before approval could also delay the acquisition of new and popular titles.

Barriers to Efficient Purchasing Processes: Adding layers of review for purchase creates barriers to a school library's ability to purchase library materials, negatively impacting student learning.

Erosion of Local Control: SB 13 removes local control from school boards by imposing state-mandated procedures for library material approval. This shift undermines the ability of school boards to create policies tailored to the specific needs and values of their
Capacity of a Small Council to Review Extensive Materials: In large ISDs, the volume of library materials purchased yearly is substantial. In a school district with 45 schools, over 4,200 new print and digital titles are purchased annually. The Advisory Council would struggle to review and approve the materials in a timely manner, delaying the availability of new books for students.

Supporting Instructional Needs & Timely Access: School libraries play a crucial role in supporting instructional needs of students.

Janice Cypret, Mrs

Liberty & Justice

Burleson, TX

I support this bill please pass this

Katherine Burescia

Mother of 3

Llano, TX

To whom it may concern,

This bill will be detrimental to the future of achool libraries and their librarians. I live in Llano, Tx with 3 children in the district and we have been standing up against this exact thing for years. It is exhausting and it takes time away from our families. We have 4 librarians in our district that are highly educated, 3 masters degrees and a doctorate degree between them, these individuals know the students, they know their interests and they know their library! We need to quit meddling and stopping them from doing their jobs. The people that constantlt push this in our community are in Austin pushing this. Our community is fed up, they have lost every person they have put on a ballot the last couple years. We do not want this, it will remove the purpose of some of the most wonderful educators in our community. It puts a burden on the school board, will reduce literacy and stifle those that have an interest in reading. I am a parent of a 1st grader and a 2nd grader, they are reading well beyond their grade levels. I know what is in the elementary library and I allow them to read what interests them. My 8 year ols has taken to history, fact based novels, don't take this away from him! My 1st grader enjoys books that he finds funny, you may not like the butt and fart jokes, but that is what 6 year olds find funny! It is my job as a parent to manage my kids, it is their job to ask questions. Let them learn through reading! Let them drive their learning, let their librarians have the ability to stear them in the right direction because they are one of their students. Let them learn to talk and speak to adults about what they learn. I have fought the same people that are for this in our community for years along side many others. It creates division, anger and misinformation. We love our libraries and librarians. If you do not like them, don't use them, but that doesn't mean my family doesn't!

I am against this bill and everyone who stands for it!! I would like for you to think back and ask yourself when a school librarian did anything to deserve this treatment? Never!! Ask yourself when it became ok to shun them in our communities? Never!! Knowledge is power and if that is what is driving this attack on libraries, that is a true shame! Where would you be in life if it weren't for education, books and libraries?? Leave my kids education alone! These bills will forever change the path they are on that holds the desire to read, to oickup a book, to seek out more stories.

I am against this bill, my kids and my husband are against these bills and our community has stood up to say that theybare against these bills!

Colleen Headley

Self

Lantana, TX

Please support this bill. Get sexually explicit books out of our SCHOOL libraries!

April Wilson

Self

Denton, TX

Please protect please pass this bill

Amanda Rios-Place

self

Spring, TX

I am against SB 13 as a parent and a librarian, because it would give a few politically appointed parents decision making power over what books all students in a community have access to. Parents and guardians have every right to decide what their own children read, but they do not have the right to decide what my children read, or what any other children read. I would much rather my district focus on improving math and reading scores instead of trying to control library books.

Carolyn Rachaner

Self

Denton, TX

The READER act is not working as intended. Nothing has changed in our district. They found the loopholes and used them as an excuse not to act. We need this bill to clarify standards and parents need to have a voice. Please pass it.

Sean Whitten

SELF

Plano, TX

Dear Senator Paxton and Members of the Committee,

I am writing not with a polite suggestion, but with a clear warning: Texas Senate Bill 13 is an attack—on education, on intellectual freedom, and on the very notion of a public school library as a cornerstone of democracy. If passed, this bill will not merely disrupt our schools; it will dismantle the infrastructure of learning itself.

SB 13 is a political weapon masquerading as policy. It aims to gut our public school libraries by:

****Stripping power from certified librarians**

****Imposing ideological censorship over access to literature**

****Replacing educational values with partisan fearmongering**

This bill is not about protecting children—it is about controlling them. It is not about education—it is about erasure. And let there be no confusion: the people of Texas are watching, and we will not stand quietly while lawmakers burn down the bridges to literacy and knowledge.

Librarians are not the enemy. Books are not the threat. But this bill is.

If you vote for SB 13, you are voting for the abolition of free thought in Texas public schools. You are choosing control over curiosity, indoctrination over inquiry, and political theatre over real leadership.

Legislators are elected to serve the people, not to stage culture wars on the backs of children and educators. Texans deserve better—and we will hold accountable those who attempt to destroy what generations have built.

Stand up. Speak out. Kill this bill.

Sincerely, Sean Whitten

ANNMARIE Cox

AnnMarie Cox

FORT WORTH, TX

I do not support SB 13 as it strips the individual parents right to decide reading material for their children, and instead pits that power in the hands of a few parents. Each parents should have the right to decide what reading their child is capable of reading/understanding, and should be allowed access. The infringement of individual parenting decisions is not democratic.

Sandra Gavrilla

self-retired

Coppell, TX

This bill empowers political appointees and bad actors to decide what our kids can and can't read. It's censorship, plain and simple, targeting LGBTQIA+ youth and communities of color under the false banner of "parental control." Librarians and educators shouldn't be forced to act as censorship police. They should be trusted to guide students, not having to risk their careers for offering honest, inclusive learning.

Lawmakers pushing SB 13 aren't protecting children. They're policing identity, targeting families, and fueling a culture war. Every child should have the right to see themselves in the books they read. If this bill passes, it will create a climate of fear and all our children will pay the price.

Amber Sawyers

Teacher

Lubbock, TX

As a public school teacher, I know this bill does not benefit our students. It is challenging enough to get students to read in the first place and this bill would only make it more challenging for students to choose their independent reading. As a teacher of 10 years, I know this does not help our declining reading comprehension scores.

Danielle Sigler

Self/parent of student in Texas public school/graduate of Texas public schools

Ausitn, TX

This is a fundamentally flawed approach to parental rights in public school libraries. I trust in trained librarians to establish criteria for public school libraries. I would not trust a parent board-- any parent board-- regardless of political or ideological perspective-- to determine which books are and are not available in school libraries. I would imagine that those in favor of this bill are picturing a board filled with parents who share their ideals. But I would ask you to take a moment and consider the fact that you are potentially empowering a group of parents with precisely the opposite views as yours. Think about this for a moment. Would you still want those parents making decisions about school library content? The answer is probably no and therein lies one of the flaws in this plan. No group of unelected, politically appointed parents should make binding decisions about public school libraries. Let's keep these decisions with the librarians who have been trained to address them and not a group of parents -- whatever their political affiliation-- who may have no background in libraries, education, or reading. I want my child to have access to books that their librarian has deemed appropriate. If there are some books that I don't want my child to read, that is a personal decision for me and my child and it should not prevent others from accessing these books. You are privileging the voices of the few over the voices of many. There is also a logistical issue with this plan. How is a parent council going to review every single purchase for all libraries across a district? It's an impossible task and will delay getting new books into the hands of students who need them. Frankly, "School library advisory councils" are just book bans by another name. It's time to move on from these bills that are doing a disservice to students, faculty, administrators, and librarians. They are distracting legislators and their constituents from devoting real attention to strengthening Texas public schools. Vote no on SB13. It is poorly conceived, impractical, and detrimental to the well-being of our public schools.

Robert Hurst

Self and retired

Dallas, TX

My name is Robert Hurst and I'm writing in regards to SB13, the Library Advisory Committee bill. As a grandparent, Texan and voter, as well as a school library supporter, I am asking you to oppose this bill because it would give a few politically appointed parents decision making power over what books all students in a community have access to. I would like my district (Dallas) to focus on improving math and reading scores instead of worrying about controlling library books. Also, Texas already passed HB 900- a school library bill- that school districts are still working on to figure out and implement- so we don't need another one. Please vote "no" on SB 13 when it comes up for the committee vote. Thank you.

Robin Barnhart, MRS

Self

Corinth, TX

I support SB 13

Anne Odendhal
Advantage Resources, Inc
Tyler, TX

May 5, 2025

My name is Anne Odendhal. As a former college psychology instructor & clinical counselor, I have experience with people of all ages who battle addictive behaviors. It is alarming that any library has sexually explicit materials accessible to children in print or online. The legal definition of a child or minor is anyone under the age of eighteen.

Why would any library allow access by legal minors to sexually explicit material? Local citizens pay millions to fund libraries in and outside schools. Library staff, state officials and the public must be accountable for factual effects that sexually explicit materials have on children. The presence of such materials tells our children that we adults think sexual anarchy is okay!

There are clear, unequivocally established facts (both scientific and criminal) that exposure to even a little bit of pornography often results in dangerous, addictive behavior akin to cocaine addiction. Addictive Pedophilia clearly starts with pornography. Violent crimes such as child molestation, rape, incest, and murder are undeniably rooted in pornography. Pedophiles know these facts and know how to lure and victimize children.

Scientific studies indicate that pornography results in impaired physiological brain functionality. The pre-frontal cortex enabling complex brain function does not fully develop for sound decision making until age 25, meaning minors are at greater risk for addictive behaviors than adults. Pornography alters brain chemicals that hinder and can damage brain functionality the same as drugs such as heroin and cocaine. Adult moral integrity struggles usually begin at a young age. The results are broken lives, broken families, and even deviant criminal behaviors.

Pornography robs young people of healthy maturation and sound decision-making skills. Pornography increases risks of abnormal emotional, psychological, and social behaviors. Pornography exposure by undeveloped minors leads to impaired psychological, emotional, social, and academic maturation, individual and family breakdown and societal decay and ruin. Time does not permit but I have access to hundreds of peer-reviewed, science based clinical studies confirming all the above.

We citizens request that ALL state and local elected and appointed officials protect our children and immediately remove and prevent access by minors to all hard copy and virtual sexually explicit materials. As citizens who value children, we need to know who and why anyone would endeavor to keep such materials available to children. We once again request that these books be immediately removed from the minor children's access. THANK YOU.

Anne Odendhal, M.A. ©2025

Reed Bilz, Ms
Self
Fort Worth, TX

I am the mother of six children who have benefited from a Texas public school education. I want future students to have access to comprehensive, diverse books at their school.

This bill would make it easier for political appointees and bad actors to target stories by and for LGBTQIA+ people and communities of color under the false banner of "parental control."

I urge you to vote NO on S B 13.

Jennie Hemphill
self Parent and PetStylist
Cypress, TX

Senate Bill 13 is an all-out attack on truth, freedom, and the right of every child to see themselves in the books they read. SB 13 empowers political appointees and bad actors to decide what our kids can and can't read. It's censorship, plain and simple, targeting LGBTQIA+ youth and communities of color under the false banner of "parental control." Librarians and educators shouldn't be forced to act as censorship police. They should be trusted to guide students, not having to risk their careers for offering honest, inclusive learning. Lawmakers pushing SB 13 aren't protecting children. They're policing identity, targeting families, and fueling a culture war. If politicians actually cared about education, they'd be funding our schools and raising teacher pay, not pushing fear and censorship by banning books to score points with extremists.

Melanie Gibson, Ms.
Self
Dallas, TX

My name is Melanie Gibson, and I'm writing again in regards to SB13, the Library Advisory Committee bill. As a voter and school librarian, I am asking you to oppose this bill because it would give a few politically appointed parents decision making power over what books all students in a community have access to. I would like my district to focus on improving math and reading scores instead of worrying about controlling library books. Also, Texas already passed HB 900- a school library bill- that school districts are still working to figure out and implement- so we don't need another one. SB 13 would extend far too much power to people who are not educators and not librarians, a small group of people who will have the power to say what books all students have access to, not just their own children. Materials should be selected by the professionals who follow best practices and professional ethics, who choose materials based on the ages and needs of the students they serve. Decisions about what an individual student may check out are between that student and his or her parent. Please vote "no" on SB 13 if it comes up for a vote. Thank you.

Horace Winchester
Citizens Defending Freedom
Allen, TX

I support this bill as it sets clear content standards, creates consistent review procedures, ensures accountability at all levels (which is sorely needed), establishes parent-majority advisory councils and provides oversight of library materials. Please move this bill to the House to get floor vote. Thanks.

D.S. Zamora
Self/Retired
Houston, TX

Opposed to SB 13

Supporters of this bill need some education about real life in our schools.

Thomas Nieland, Mr.
Self
Alamo, TX

Please don't pass SB13, this bill is sure to allow certain religious zealots to remove reading materials from libraries that offend THEIR particular sensibilities, when most people would find those same things to be not only inoffensive, but important to children's educations!

Christie Slape

Moms for Liberty - Texas & self (Productivity and Organizing Professional)

Round Rock, TX

The Moms for Liberty - Texas Legislative Committee has endorsed SB13 because it increases a parent's likelihood of removing inappropriate books out of our child's school libraries. For years we have educated our librarians, Superintendents and Board of Trustees on the sexually explicit materials in our school libraries, yet we are met with pushback. The current book challenge policy in my school district, Round Rock ISD, is the TASB (Texas Association of School Board) model policy, and it is anti-parent. If a parent wishes to challenge a book, the parent must read the book in its entirety within 7 days, along with the principal and librarian. (The books can be 400-600 pages long.) If the librarian does not agree that the book is inappropriate, the parent must appeal, a new committee (selected by the librarian) is created, and everyone is required to read the entire book to decide on the appropriateness of the book. There is a third and final appeal to the Board of Trustees, but the Trustees are not required to accept the challenge, creating resentment for the parent. This process, according to policy, could last up to 80 days to challenge ONE book, and only 1 book may be challenged at a time. Any other books to be challenged remain in the queue. There are only 171 instructional days in the school year, so only 2 books would be challenged per year. This feels like a waste of time and energy. We need a more efficient process, and SB13 helps with that. The new definitions for profane and indecent will also be useful in defining the content for removal. We often say that if a word cannot be read on tv or on the radio, they should not be lifted from the pages of books and into a child's mind. Another benefit of SB13 is that it helps to connect the dots between the FCC regulations and school library books. We urge the Public Education Committee to vote SB13 out of committee and to a quick passage on the House floor.

Esther Uribe

Self/school librarian

Houston, TX

As a concerned parent, educator, and school librarian, I am writing in opposition to Senate Bill 13 in Texas. SB13 not only infringes on my rights as a taxpayer, but it is also an overreach of governmental power that infringes on the rights of my child and all Texas children to have access to self-selected reading materials. It disregards the trained school library professionals who know their communities and the selection policies put into place by their local school boards. It takes away individual freedoms from parents, students, community members, and school board trustees to review and regulate school library materials and instead gives the authority to a small group of politically appointed School Library Advisory Council members. These members would likely not be trained library professionals or teachers who are qualified to make library curation decisions. In fact, SB13 does not even require all council members to have children enrolled in the public school system the committee allegedly represents.

As a school librarian, I have a Bachelor's degree in Education and a Master's degree in Library Science. I have taken entire courses in children's and youth literature as well as courses in collection development and book selection. I have carefully followed board policies, consulted respected reviews, and curated age appropriate, engaging library collections representing different viewpoints for over 16 years. The idea that a handful of unqualified parents and community members could be making decisions for everyone is not just insulting to us librarians as professionals, it goes against the American values of freedom of speech and access to information. Library curation and collection development decisions should be left to trained librarians.

Under SB13, School Library Advisory Councils would have the power to remove library materials from school libraries that are inconsistent with "community values." The values of certain community members should not be prioritized above others. As a parent, I do not want anyone else to make decisions about what my child has access to. That is a conversation for each family to have for themselves. For these reasons, I ask that you keep politics out of our schools by strongly opposing SB13 in Texas.

Clark Denson, MR

self, occupation=IT Governance Risk & Compliance

Cypress, TX

I fully support this bill. Sadly it is not secret to many that school districts do not share the opinion regarding inappropriate filthy language in books for children. This drama has been happening for at least a minimum of the last 5 years, and likely longer. Bill 900 / reader act have not gone far enough to once and for all make a easy process for any tax payer or parent to challenge books that contain this garbage. Putting a strong enforcement mechanism in this bill would improve it. School Districts sadly will NOT COMPLY out of decency sop they must be forced with real teeth to ensure compliance. I like in CyFair and that school district has the same poppycock that Bonnie Wallace with Recover America testified to in Llano. It is way past time to address this issue. It should not be a foreign concept to legislators who have been around a while as former Texas State Rep Matt Krause of Fort Worth made issues of this in 2021. Why is this such news to so many legislators? Thank you for your consideration.

Tracy W

Self

Cypress, TX

I'm quoting a book found in school libraries across the state. A book incredibly prolific and pornographic, so I'm hoping this bill helps ban this book and rid our public schools of the filth being spread to our vulnerable students.

"One day the older daughter said to the younger, our father is old, and there is no man around here to give us children- as is the custom all over the earth. Let's get our father to drink wine and sleep with him and preserve our family line through our father. That night they got their father to drink wine, and the oldest daughter went in and slept with him."-- DRUNK, RAPE, and INCEST all in 1 small chapter!!

"His concubine, who name was Reumah, also had sons: Tebah, Gaham, Tahash, and Maakah."- ADULTERY and SIN!!

"Then she said, Here is Bilhah, my servant. Sleep with her so that she can bear children for me and I too can build a family through her."- RAPE, TRAFFICKING, GROOMING, and ADULTERY

"If he marries another woman, he must not deprive the first one of her food, clothing, and marital rights."- POLYGAMY is OKAY

"If a priest's daughter defiles herself by becoming a prostitute, she disgraces her father; she must be burned in the fire."- PROSTITUTION and MURDER

Since, I assume no one plans on banning the Bible from schools (which all above passage are direct quotes from and there are plenty more) then this governmental overreach of a bill needs to be shut down.

Librarians are HIGHLY educated, qualified, and trained individuals in the library sciences. School board members are not, evidenced by school boards banning books with "naked" crayons. I have far more concern about men sexualizing crayons that over the materials that qualified individuals have carefully chosen with approved processes that I, as a parent, have control over. School members are not in charge of TEKS or English materials, so unless you are giving up TEA and SBOE control of materials, then this bill is a waste of time and will cost school districts their much needed and beloved librarians. You don't like people telling you how to do your job, proven by the complete disregard of the majorities feelings over SB2, so why should you get to tell librarians how to do theirs?

Do ONE thing right this session and vote no to SB 13.

Michelle Scott

self, underwriting coordinator

Austin, TX

As a tax paying parent, mother of a Texas teacher and resident of Austin, Texas, I respectfully oppose SB 13. Senate bill 13 is an all-out attack on truth, freedom, and the right of every child to see themselves in the books they read. SB 13 is an attempt to empower political appointees and bad actors to decide what our kids can and can't read. It's censorship, plain and simple, targeting LGBTQIA+ youth and communities of color under the false banner of "parental control." Furthermore, librarians and educators shouldn't be forced to act as censorship police, they should be trusted to guide students and not have to risk their careers for offering honest, inclusive learning. SB 13 is in no way protecting children, rather it is an attempt to police people's identities, target families, and fuel a culture war. If congress actually cares about education, they should be funding our schools and raising teacher pay, not pushing fear and censorship by banning books to score points with extremists. I respectfully urge you all to oppose SB 13.

Thank you for your time.

Colleen Boroughs

Self retired

AMARILLO, TX

I want to make a public comment in support of SB 13. It will clarify and cause transparency regarding the explicit material found in our public schools. Parents must have a voice in what is put in front of their children. Thank you

Abby Olsen

Self

San Antonio, TX

Parents already have the right to choose what their kids read in school! This bill is book banning, plain and simple. Librarians and educators shouldn't be forced to act as censorship police. They should be trusted to guide students, not having to risk their careers for offering honest, inclusive learning. If you don't want your child to read something then don't let them read it but you have no right to tell my child what they can or can't read.

Jayne Baker

Retired from HaysCISD

SAN MARCOS, TX

My goodness, I can't believe that you think parents don't have access to anything available in a municipal or public school library. Parents have always had a choice in monitoring the books their children read. I object strongly to any sub-group having control over the right to read, think or speak. Librarians are trained professionals who are vetted and devoted to doing what is right for children and our society. To imply otherwise, is false and is a fear tactic. I am a retired public school teacher of 43 years, a lover of literature, and a U.S. citizen that believes in our laws and constitutional government. Pushing down our throats such legislation is authoritarian and a threat to our democracy. Vote NO!

Karen Conyngham, Mrs.

Self Employed

Austin, TX

I'm writing in regards to SB13, the Library Advisory Committee bill. As a Texan, a voter and school library supporter, I am asking you to oppose this bill because it would give a few politically appointed parents decision making power over what books all students in a community have access to. I would like my district to focus on improving math and reading scores instead of worrying about controlling library books. Also, Texas already passed HB 900- a school library bill- that school districts are still working to figure out and implement- so we don't need another one. Please vote "no" on SB 13. Thank you.

carolyn Shirley, Ms

self

Lexington, TX

I oppose SB 13 because it empowers political appointees and narrow minded people to decide what people can read and litterly remove books off the shelves when they themselves are ignorant of the value or made uncomfortable by the material itself or the heroines and heros presented. This is censorship and prevents students from seeing and reading about people like themselves. I am a grandparent. I know the value of reading to understand the world around us. I believe parents must stay invover with their child and can make their own decision about what heir child can read.

Patrice French

Self - Learning Consultant

Houston, TX

Hello, Name is Patrice, I'm a resident of Houston and am sending a public comment in opposition of SB-13 to the library advisory council. I'm an educator having worked in communities and universities for the past 15 years. Shifting the power from education professionals and librarians to the school board to approve books in school libraries is a huge overreach of power and will be detrimental to student learning.

This bill will likely result in children reading LESS, which is an ongoing challenge Texas has struggled to improve, especially since the COVID-19 pandemic.

SB-13 will also create confusion from House Bill 900, which school districts are already trying to implement and enforce. Changing the laws for book review will create more confusion, add additional labor, and shift focus away more pertinent issues like improving literacy rates and math scores in schools. Even if SB-13 passes, there many logistical challenges to implementing this bill, including additional labor costs and time that could be spent elsewhere (e.g., teacher salaries, updating materials, school supplies).

A library is a place where people have access to a wide array of information and to learn new ideas. It's also a focal point within the community, and everyone should be able to enter into a library and find materials that help them learn more about themselves, those around them, and the world. Don't take that opportunity away from children just for political rhetoric. These decisions will have immediate and far reaching effects on the future of our children to be successful in the world.

Jennifer Rios

Self

Spring, TX

Hello. My name is Jennifer Rios and I am a parent and educator in Texas. I live in Spring and work for a small private school where, fortunately, our students are both allowed and encouraged to read banned books. However, my own two sons have gone through the public school system and I am deeply concerned about the quality of education offered to future generations of public school students due to SB 13.

I strongly oppose SB 13. This bill is not about protecting children—it's about censoring them. It empowers politically motivated groups to control what books students can access, targeting LGBTQIA+ communities and people of color under the false pretense of "parental rights." Librarians and educators shouldn't be forced to police content or fear for their jobs for simply offering inclusive, honest learning materials.

Every student deserves to see themselves in the stories they read. Instead of funding schools and supporting teachers, SB 13 fuels a culture war that limits knowledge and silences diverse voices. This is book banning, plain and simple—and we must reject it.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I strongly ask that you oppose SB 13 and allow students to continue to experience important works as guided by trained librarians and educators, not politically motivated school boards funded by corporate and extremist PACs.

Beverly Redd

Self

Klein, TX

I urge you to vote NO for this bill. It puts the power to choose books for a school library in the hands of a select few instead of have an experienced Librarian choose books or allowing parents to choose for their own children. Parents should have the final say in what books their child reads, not someone else's parent who doesn't know your child.

Sue Priddy

Citizens for Education Reform

Littlefield, TX

Good Afternoon,

I am writing as member of CFER, a grandmother and a retired junior high school teacher. Please support the furtherance of Senate Bill 13.

When a problem is discovered, generally speaking the solution to that problem is not a one step action. Fortunately, HB 900 was the first step. Senator Paxton's SB13 expands on needed inclusions to protect our children from highly inappropriate literature now being allowed in our school libraries. Her bill creates objective standards, requires transparency, provides accountability for review committees and school boards. Additionally, Parents are assured seats on advisory councils and bestows supervision of the choices and acquisition of books appropriate for all children here in Texas. As a retired teacher I strongly support SB13 and encourage all to vote YES!! Texas schools should focus on teaching our children the basic subjects, how to think on their own, problem solving and citizenship. Schools should not be in the business of providing sexualized books in their libraries. Thank you for taking the time to read this and for your willingness to serve the State of Texas. Please stand up for children and pass this bill that clearly addresses and provides accountability for the problem of unsuitable books being allowed in educational libraries.

Sincerely,

Sue Priddy

Andra Haney

CKKC, self

Fair Oaks Ranch, TX

For the sake of Texas children, please pass SB13!

Vickie Natale

retired

Corpus Christi, TX

I ask that you opposed SB13. There are more important issues for our schools than controlling what books are in the library. The proposed process is VERY subjective on evaluating library materials. This is an overreach of governmental power and takes away individual freedom from parents and schools to review and regulate their library materials. If you make the process for buying books harder and slower, then schools will be buying fewer books, which will result in a reduction in access to library materials for students statewide. That can lead to yet a further reduction in literacy in our communities. That is not the direction we need to go.

Nora Dearing

Self - Retired teacher

Bay City, TX

I am writing to address this made up emergency that is unfairly being pushed upon libraries, schools and students. Librarians are experts in their field and need to be trusted to pick out materials that are appropriate for the children they serve. Advisory councils are not using expertise, but emotions, prejudice, intolerance and ignorance on this topic. Leave this decision up to the local librarians and school district policy. This is a bad bill that is pushing a personal agenda and not in the best interest of our children. Stop lying to the public.

Rachel Lively
Self, librarian
Mineral Wells, TX

The following is a fictitious example about a real issue using this particular example to help increase understanding of what is at stake.

Recently the Texas Senate Sports Committee along with all 20 Republican Senators got together and signed onto a bill seeking to address the damage that some football coaches are causing their football players. The Senate believes that some coaches are running dangerous plays in our public football stadiums and players are being harmed. The solution that they have come up with is that all plays must be approved by the school board before they can be run on the field.

Before these plays are presented to the school board they must first be presented to the newly created Football Advisory Council. The FAC is comprised of students and parents. The football coach can serve on the committee, but they are not allowed to have any voting or decision making power. This committee can reject any play they want (even if the coach thinks it's a good play) if they feel it doesn't fit their community values.

Johnny is the star running back and his dad sits on the FAC. Coach keeps running passes to the wide receiver and not Johnny. Now Johnny's dad gets to decide the plays through the FAC. Surely Johnny has community values in mind and not just what is best for his son Johnny when he decides the plays.

No plays can be run until they have gone through the FAC and approved by the school board, effectively removing the coach's ability to responsibly call plays as situations arise on the field. The district employs a coach who has years of experience, a degree, and certification to coach, but now they are no longer in the driver's seat concerning what is happening on the field.

If a parent (let's say in this example the other star running back's dad) decides that he thinks a play doesn't match "community values" he can challenge it and now the coach cannot run that play until it has been vetted through the FAC and the school board says that it is ok.

How competitive do you think these teams are going to be when the coach is not the one who gets to call the plays? Do you think this will help all kids be safer on the field because they are no longer relying on the trained professional to make decisions?

The above is pure fiction, but if you substitute librarian for coach and books for plays you have the gist of Texas SB 13.

This bill would devastate the ability of public school libraries to provide books for their students. This bill defers the decision-making process for collection development away from the trained professionals. It also means that someone else's parent now gets to determine for you what your child can or cannot read.

To be a librarian you must have a master's degree in library science. To be a school librarian you must also have three years minimum teaching experience and pass a certification exam. I urge you to vote no on SB 13.

Arnold Grothues
Myself
Arlington, TX

As an attorney, my perception of SB13 is that it is unconstitutional book banning censorship. This is not about parental control. This is about government imposing a political viewpoint on all citizens. Just like SB11 is about imposing religion on all students no matter what their parents believe. Religious kids already have ample time to pray: before school, before each class starts, during recess, etc.

Parents already have the right to choose what their kids read and kids can already pray in school. These bills are unconstitutional morality mandates by our state government.

Shellee Fitch
Self
McKinney, TX

Supporting SB 13. Our children need to be protected!

Shanda Hasse
Self
Lubbock, TX

It is of utmost importance that we reach passage of SB13 to removed sexually explicit materials from Texas public school libraries in order to protect the next generation. There is no reason to have pornographic books available to our students when the state prisons don't even allow the titles in question. Per even municipal code, sexually explicit materials distributed to minors is a legal offense. As the mother of two teenagers, I led a group of about 45 people in West Texas to come alongside Lubbock ISD to remove the books defined in HB900, and after almost two years of working to accomplish this, we have only successfully had less than five titles removed. This law will profoundly protect children who have zero business reading books that fulfill the definition of sexually-explicit and age inappropriate materials within the walls of our great Texas public schools. Thank you for getting this through for our students! It's the very basic level of common sense for their well-being.

Jeff Mcclarty
Fredericksburg
Fredericksburg, TX

Please pass this bill,
School should not be the place to learn about sex and view porn

Leslie Spatz, Dr.
self/retired teacher
Stephenville, TX

I oppose this bill, SB 13, the Library Advisory Committee Bill, because it infringes on my rights, the rights of my children, grandchildren. This bill, if it becomes law, will take away local control by giving a small group of untrained and unqualified community members the power to decide what library materials all students can access. Meeting only twice per school year to create a list of approved and rejected materials, creates a bottleneck in ordering and acquiring new books and resources. Subjectively deciding which library materials are appropriate without adequate training or experience is not acceptable. As a (parent/Texan/voter) and school library supporter, I am asking you to oppose this bill, because it would give a few politically appointed parents decision making power over what books all students in a community have access. to. I would like my district to focus on improving math and reading scores instead of worrying about controlling library books. Also, Texas already passed HB 900- a school library bill- that school districts are still working to figure out and implement- so we don't need another one.I trust my children and grandchildren to be able to choose wisely, with my own parental supervision and the guidance of a trained librarian, regarding what books are good for them to read. My daughter is now 30 years old, and she turned out just fine, without this law/bill. she knows how to guide her own children without this bill/law. Please ask the Representative to vote "no" on SB 13 if it comes up for a committee vote. Thank you."

Jennifer Nations

Parent of children in Texas Public Schools

College Station, TX

I noted the reference to Pico in the bill so I will reference it here: “ Petitioner Board of Education, rejecting recommendations of a committee of parents and school staff that it had appointed, ordered that certain books, which the Board characterized as "anti-American, anti-Christian, anti-Sem[i]tic, and just plain filthy," be removed from high school and junior high school libraries. Respondent students then brought this action for declaratory and injunctive relief under 42 U.S.C. § 1983 against the Board and petitioner Board members, alleging that the Board's actions had denied respondents their rights under the First Amendment. The District Court granted summary judgment in petitioners' favor. The Court of Appeals reversed and remanded for a trial on the merits of respondents' allegations.

Held: The judgment is affirmed.”

SCOTUS has already considered this. But also: I’m involved with my kids’ schools and I can peruse the library often. More parents and legislators should do that. Public schools always need willing volunteers.

Ann David, Dr.

Self, Professor of Education

San Antonio, TX

Texas needs an education population to continue to be a successful state, one with a strong economy, strong culture, and strong communities. A key component of education is literacy and reading. While classroom literacy instruction is essential, so is a well-stocked library with a trained librarians. Schools with libraries and librarians have consistently been shown to have higher academic achievement.

The provisions in SB 13 have been implemented in some school districts and do the opposite of what is promised in the bill and in the media coverage of its sponsors.

This process is so cumbersome that librarians cannot purchase books at a rate relevant for the student readers in their schools. Librarians spend time managing bureaucracy instead of managing the library. Public comment does not ensure high-quality books are selected. And, as a parent, I do not want one public comment to restrict the books available for my child to read. I assert my parental right to have my child have access to a wide variety of librarian-selected materials.

Additionally, highly skilled English language arts teachers see what is happening to librarians and their colleagues who stock their classrooms and libraries with challenging books that support students in becoming highly skilled readers, but that make one parent mad. So they put all the books in their classroom libraries away. This stance is reasonable given the climate of fear in Texas. But it is terrible for Texas students and teachers. It leads to disengagement, which can lead to lower achievement. It leads to skilled teachers leaving the classroom, at a time when we need as many skilled teachers as possible.

SB 13 is not right for Texas.

Yasmín Ramírez

4693637679

El Paso, TX

Dear Members of the House Public Education Committee,

I am writing to strongly oppose Senate Bill 13, a harmful piece of legislation introduced by Paxton that will severely damage the role of school libraries across Texas. I urge you to let this bill die in committee.

SB 13 introduces overly broad and vague categories of "prohibited books" and hands decision-making power over school library materials to politically appointed volunteers with no professional expertise. This opens the door to biased censorship and undermines the trained educators and librarians who already have clear processes in place for book selection and review.

If passed, SB 13 will:

Silence diverse and historically underrepresented voices in school libraries.

Create fear and confusion among educators and librarians.

Limit students' access to literature that builds empathy, critical thinking, and a well-rounded education.

This bill is not about protecting children—it's about controlling narratives and suppressing knowledge. Texas students deserve access to a broad and inclusive range of books that reflect their identities, challenge their thinking, and prepare them for the real world. SB 13 does the opposite.

Please do the right thing: Vote NO on SB 13 and protect the freedom to read, learn, and think in Texas public schools.

Sophia Vassilakidis

self

Houston, TX

Vote against SB 13. "Parental rights" should not trump the right to read or access information. So far, parental rights have been used as a cover for outright censorship. It also seems like it will open a can of worms: Could adoptive parents against human over-population claim parental rights to get books about abnormally large families removed from where impressionable young children could access them? Could vegan parents that don't want their children exposed to flesh-eating challenge books concerning cattle drives and other less savory but True aspects of Texas history? Just asking for quite a few friends.

Dale Dittmar

self-retired

Fredericksburg, TX

I want express my support for SB 13 to keep sexually inappropriate books out of our public school libraries. Parents should have full access to information regarding what books are available to their children at school.

Lisa Phillips

self

Houston, TX

Urging defeat of this legislation. School districts have professional library staff to manage collections in the school library, and these staff have the training necessary to complete needed selection of books and other educational materials. Parents already have the right to guide their student's selection of reading materials that are consistent with their family values and cultural norms. This additional layer of bureaucracy is unnecessary and unhelpful at a time when schools are dealing with so many issues already. Leave library material choice to existing school board requirements and processes and to the professional staff already in place.

Rebekah Adams

self

McKinney, TX

PLEASE protect the innocence of Texas' children. Vote YES on SB13 to strengthen the current law by:

?? Clarifying content standards

?? Requiring consistent review procedures

?? Ensuring accountability and transparency

?? Giving parents a voice

Thank you!

Miguel Andrade

Self

Channelview, TX

School libraries do not need a council nor the involvement of parental rights to police libraries. If the parent wants to police what their children brings home from the school library then the parents can do that at home by being involved in the children's life by building trusting relationships. Allow schools librarians to do their job to create a library that caters to the school's student population and interests.

Elizabeth Love

Self

Austin, TX

School librarians should be allowed to do their job of organizing and making information available to students. This bill is unnecessary as school districts already have legal authority to manages schools including school libraries. Stop letting a few hysterical parents try to force their ideas on everyone else's children.

Ronnie Gatlin

self

Italy, TX

Support this Bill please.

Beverly Gatlin

Self

Italy, TX

Please support this Bill.

Sara Teel

Myself

Johnson City, TX

School are supposed to be safe spaces for all students and stakeholders. Banning books that reflect the community (and reality) is completely unacceptable. Parents already have the right to opt their student out of certain lessons and reading materials. No one should decide for a child that is not their own what they are allowed to read. Period.

John Renfro
self
DENISON, TX

PAXTON, THE FELON MUST BE REMOVED! SB 13 just cannot pass; a district library committee would approve all books, a 30-day public review period, and then the school board has to approve to order every book in the library. The district that did this purchased a minuscule amount of books. Onerous process with people who don't read middle school and high school books or talk to kids would make uninformed decisions. Many books challenged are appropriate for the library purchased. This is more overreaching by an anti education government! STOP THIS FASCIST OVER REACH NOW! This is still a democracy! This far-right, authoritarian, and ultranationalist lunacy must stop!

Eric Mata
Texas Organizing Project
Dallas, TX

To the esteemed House Public Education Committee members, I urge you to oppose S.B. 13 due to its problematic implications for Texas school libraries and students. This legislation oversteps, imposing undue burdens and potentially limiting access to diverse and relevant educational resources. The broad definitions of prohibited content and the significant influence of unelected advisory councils risk censorship and undermine the professional expertise of librarians. Parental rights are important, but this bill creates a system that could lead to the removal of valuable materials based on subjective interpretations, hindering students' intellectual freedom and academic growth. This legislation's requirement for board approval of every new acquisition and the mandatory removal of challenged materials pending review creates bureaucratic hurdles that will slow down the process of getting new and relevant books into the hands of students. Furthermore, making individual checkout records easily accessible raises privacy concerns. This bill risks creating a chilling effect on the selection of library materials, ultimately disadvantaging students by limiting their exposure to a wide range of perspectives and information crucial for a well-rounded education.

Jennifer Bates, Rev.
self
Denton, TX

I oppose this bill.

Mark Adams
Self - Software Engineer
Round Rock, TX

I strongly oppose SB 13 for three reasons.

First, SB 13 is trying to solve a problem that simply does not exist. Local school districts already have a number of policies and processes to deal with concerns from parents and the community about school library materials. As a Round Rock ISD parent myself, I have confidence that the professional librarians the district employs take into account the backgrounds and viewpoints of our community and the age appropriateness of materials when making catalog selections. If I have concerns about their choices, I know that I can utilize the existing process by reaching out to my daughter's school librarian or principal. If I disagree, there is an appeals process to escalate to the school board for final resolution. This process already exists and it works very well. Frankly, this bill doesn't solve any problem.

Second, SB 13 takes away local control in favor of a one-size-fits-all solution. Today, school districts have flexibility to design a process that works for their district and community. If they want to develop a simple and cost-effective process, they can choose to do so. If they want to develop a more complicated process with more administrative overhead, they can do so. Your predecessors have decided, rightfully so, that each community is different and it should be up to the locally elected school board to make decisions on how best to run our schools and libraries. If the school board doesn't do this effectively, they are accountable to voters when they come up for reelection. Taking away local control on an issue should never be done lightly and should only be done when it is clear that there is a very strong positive outcome that can only be achieved by standardizing at the state level. SB 13 does not meet that bar.

Third, SB 13 imposes new administrative burdens on local districts and their staff. SB 13 requires all library book purchases to be put up for public comment before purchase, requires schools to maintain per-student banned book lists (possibly involving purchasing new software), and forces districts to create new school library advisory councils. All of these requirements create additional costs for districts but SB 13 does not provide any additional revenue to districts to help offset these costs. The expense will likely be felt most by smaller districts which lack the administrative staff and central library departments that larger districts have. As a result, districts will have to take money away from their core work of improving student outcomes making our system more inefficient and more wasteful.

Parents already have the tools they need to address concerns about library materials without adding additional burdensome, unfunded requirements that strip away control from our local communities without improving student outcomes. Vote no on SB 13.

JULIA KOVACH

Self/Caregiver
Austin, TX

Dear State Senators, I am a parent and reading advocate here in Texas. I do not agree with the proposition of allowing local school library advisory councils nor do I think that parents should have a say in what is in the library. I trust our librarians as they are professionals whereas most parents are not in the field of reading and literacy. Parents may exercise their choice by having conversations with their own children to determine what media they allow in their own homes. I do not want other parents to decide what limitations MY children have in reading material. I urge you to vote against SB 13 as it is an attempt at government interference.

Gretchen Pruett

Self Retired

Kyle, TX

I am against SB 13. This bill is not necessary, since HB 900 already has been implemented to provide school library collections. The creation of the local school library advisory council is problematic. The review processes that are currently in place for schools and school district libraries have a component of professional review, as well as community review through the ELECTED school board officials. Reviewing materials requires a level of time commitment that many members may not be willing to make. It requires reading the material in its entirety and then using metrics to determine if the material meets the criteria for exclusion. And at this time, there are not clear cut or absolute guidelines for the council to follow. This is not a task that can be turned over to AI, as some have suggested. And again, there is already a process in place that works, even though some may not like the decisions that are made. This bill creates unnecessary barriers to parent and school partnerships in educating Texas students.

Tami Marron

Self - retired pharmacist

Austin, TX

Senator Paxton and Ken Paxton. I am so disappointed that you continue to push forward the Evangelical Christian Nationalist's ideas of limiting access to books and curriculums that discuss Diverse ideas and Diverse people and that discuss our moral obligation to be Equitable and Inclusive in all aspects of lives. What will you tell your children in the future that you did to prevent the tyranny and fascism and bigotry that started to destabilize our country when Donald Trump became president. Your actions are not only limiting but harming your children's future and the future of Texas and of the United States. What happened to trying to find Common Ground? Tami Marron

Pamela Laflin

self

Houston, TX

I strongly oppose SB13. Please let our trained educators work to open our students minds to worlds and information beyond the limited worlds of parents. I appreciate that my children had thoughtful educators to inspire them though books to explore animals, ecology, poetry - things that I had no expertise in. Let our libraries be the inspiring places that they were to our generation. Oppose untrained councils, librarians, and parents controlling our children's libraries.

Sarah Walter

Self- nurse

Austin, TX

I oppose this harmful bill. Book bans do not keep kids safe. It is a fallacy that denying children access to library materials will protect them from harm. Humans hurt humans. Reading does not harm humans. Access to ideas does not harm people. Kids need to have conversations with adults about difficult subjects, and if parents are afraid to have those conversations, they need to work on themselves. This bill harms children by taking away access to library materials. If parents want to police kids' library materials, then they can take them to the library of their choice, or send their kids to private schools. Public schools need to have accessible libraries with access to a variety of age-appropriate materials. Educators and librarians should decide what is on the shelves of their schools. And parents should learn to talk to their kids and be involved enough in their lives to know what they're interested in reading and accessing. Welcome the hard conversations. States should stay out of the business of policing public school libraries.

Jan Realini, Dr.
Self, retired
San Antonio, TX

I strongly OPPOSE this bill

Public school librarians and educators should not be forced to act as censorship police. As qualified professionals, they should be trusted to guide students, not having to risk their careers for offering honest or inclusive learning. They are trained to offer age-appropriate education and resources for children and youth.

Lawmakers who are insisting that SB 13 become law are not protecting children. They are stoking a culture war and trying to erase LGBTQ+ people and any understanding of human variety. Hiding the existence of communities of color, religious minorities, and sexual or gender minorities from books and classrooms is not appropriate or respectful. Students need to see themselves as belonging in their school and in their state. Hiding differences sends a message that students in these communities do not belong in their own schools or even in their state. This is damaging to student self-esteem and learning.

Please OPPOSE this bill.

David Shontz
Self - retired
SPRING, TX

I am a concerned citizen responding to this bill's attempt to further censor public school libraries. Parents already have control over their children's school reading. Removing books through a "local advisory board" opens the door to censoring what all parents can allow their children to read. It is not necessary.

Hedrich Michaelson
self-retired
Austin, TX

I oppose this bill and urge the committee to reject it. First of all, it is entirely unnecessary and enacting it would create administrative complexity for school districts. Parents already have the right to choose what their kids read in schools. Full stop. This is just an excuse for state-sanctioned censorship. If politicians actually cared about education, they'd be funding our public schools and raising teacher pay, not pushing fear and censorship by banning books to score points with extremists.

Kristie Rutledge
Self
Rockport, TX

Chair and Committee Members,

I am writing to express my strong support for SB 13. It is very important to stop the assault on one children's hearts and minds with intense materials in public school libraries that has been pushed out to all school libraries under the Biden administration. Many parents have tried to remove these books, but school districts and activist librarians block their efforts. Please pass SB 13 quickly and get it to the floor for a vote.

Respectfully,
Kristie Rutledge

Kim Graham
self
Plano, TX

Please everyone should support SB13!!!!!!

Andrea McAdams

self (librarian)

Sundown, TX

It is understandable that there be a request made for age-appropriate materials to be noted. However, it is the parents' responsibilities to police what is appropriate for their own children, not of someone else's child. As a public librarian, it is my job to give fair and free access to all citizens. As a parent, I can direct my children to other choices more on their maturity level. But I cannot expect a librarian--or other parents as in advisory councils--to do that for me. Please leave the responsibilities where they belong.

Don Roots

Self

Whitehouse, TX

Please pass this bill. Help hold those accountable who would allow porn and sexually pervasive material to be available to children. Please stand up for Texas families and do the right thing by passing this important bill. Thank you

James Ford

Self, Retired

San Antonio, TX

I urge you to vote against SB 13 or let it die in committee. This is another bad bill in the onslaught against our dedicated public school librarians. Like most Texas legislators, you probably are a product of Texas public schools and libraries. I consider myself lucky to have attended excellent Texas public schools at a time when our dedicated teachers and librarians were given the respect and support they deserve. Please vote against this oppressive bill.

Catherine Roots

Self

Whitehouse, TX

Please pass this bill. It is important that we have the means to hold those accountable for allowing children to access porn and sexually explicit materials. Thank you for standing up for Texas families.

Lyn Renfro

Self

Lubbock, TX

This is unnecessary. I'm actually on a committee for the school district that reads books that are being challenged. Librarians are trained professionals who purchase books and bring books into the library that are appropriate for students to read. We should not make the process of reading books more onerous. Students have the right to read books that reflect them and this is the job at the library. The government does not need to get involved in everything. I actually thought that the Republicans believed in less government not more interference. I strongly oppose this bill.

Lisa Hunt, The Reverend

Self/priest

HOUSTON, TX

My name is Lisa Hunt and I live in Christina Morales' and Carol Alvarado's district in Houston. I urge you to vote no on SB 13, a bill which will harm Texas' students and set censorship as policy in our public schools.

I am a former elected member of the Nashville Public School Board, the former president of the Board of St. Stephen's Episcopal School Houston, and a pastor to generations of LGBTQ people in our state. Additionally, my husband directed the branches of the Harris County Public library for over a decade. I am very familiar with the discomfort many people feel with the freedom to read as well as the freedom that comes to people, children included, when they see themselves in books, images and stories. Texas public school children need access to the freedom to read. Today Texas parents enjoy the opportunity to prevent their own children from reading materials they deem inappropriate, but one parent should not be the arbiter of appropriate literature for others' students. I trust librarians to make the decisions when it comes to developing the collections of their libraries.

Imagination, self-esteem, and opportunity are birthed and nurtured in libraries. The greatest politicians, artists, scientists and leaders in our country have found their voices and dreams sparked by what they have been free to discover by meandering the collections curated by their community's librarians. Teachers are bound to curricula, but librarians give students wings to fly and contemplate to their minds' content. This is why so many of our state and national leaders are afraid to allow the freedom to read; they seek control. Personally, I have counseled dozens of people over my years of ministry whose lives were saved by the poems, stories, novels and articles they read about people like them. Whether they were gay or black, disabled or transgender, these persons were made whole by engaging with worlds beyond themselves that included themselves.

Censorship of school libraries serves no one. Library "advisory councils" are bound to include zealots whose ignorance and fear of others will hamper them from seeing the benefit of materials which are not valid for them. One of the key sayings in library education is "to every reader their book." Not every book serves every person...this is true even within families. One of the best gifts my parents ever gave me was the absolute freedom to check out any book I wanted to from the library; I learned about sex, politics, and other times and places from that liberty.

In a time and place when there is increasing pressure for conformity, it is critical that you as elected leaders hold open the door to freedom of thought and inquiry. A critical bastion of that right is the public school library. Free people read freely.

Vote no on SB 13.

Sincerely,

The Reverend Lisa Hunt

Kati Elliott

Self

Aubrey, TX

Parents should have more say in what children read in libraries at school

Barrymore Keith

Self

Lubbock, TX

I want to express OPPOSITION to SB 13 and to any legislators voting for it. A voting backlash awaits any legislator who supports SB 13.

Brenda Henricks
SELF, Certified Public School Librarian
WOLFFORTH, TX

SB 13 would create an unnecessary burden on district librarians and citizen committees, many of whom do not have children in the district or have an agenda, to decide what families should and should not read. Families should be the ones having conversations about their values and beliefs, not those who oppose books placed on shelves because they want to make decisions for ALL. Require a certified librarian in every school who is specifically trained for such decisions.

The issue lies within the family unit, not with librarians or those responsible for purchasing and approving books in school libraries. Certified librarians have undergone training specifically to select books that meet the needs and interests of their school communities. The books they purchase are already vetted and approved based on careful consideration.

Why should we remove that family dynamic? Each family should be responsible for making decisions about their own child's reading material. If this bill were enacted, the process for getting books approved would take months or even years, delaying access for students. Those who do not understand the selection process, or who don't read books suitable for middle or high school students, lack the necessary knowledge to make informed decisions.

This proposal, SB 13, is unreasonable. Parents are responsible for guiding their children's reading choices and accessing their children's records, just as they can see grades. They should engage in discussions based on their own values and beliefs as a family, rather than impose their choices on everyone. Burrows and Tepper should be against such bills and allow librarians to do their job and allow families to have conversations with their own children - it is not the State of Texas' responsibility.

Carl Kline
Self
Lubbock, TX

Vote NO to this!

Deana Johnston
Texas Eagle Forum, Communications Director
Dallas, TX

I'm sad this bill is even needed, but it is. We must take these measures to protect children. Please pass this bill.

Sarah Kline, Library Media Specialist
Lubbock ISD
Lubbock, TX

This is ludicrous! I strongly oppose bills like this and this one in particular because they prohibit kids from having access to books! I find it frustrating that libraries and librarians are being attacked by bills like this. Oppose this bill! Kids need access to books. They need challenging texts. They need interesting pertaining about kids they can actually relate to. They need freedom of choice. Protect libraries, protect kids, protect the right to read!

Gayleen Rabakukk
Self
MARBLE FALLS, TX

I'm opposed to this bill. I work part-time for a children's book store in Cedar Park, Texas and am very concerned about the economic impact this bill would have on Texas bookstores. School districts that have implemented similar measures have ended up not buying any books for their libraries. Texas requires school librarians to have a master's degree in library science, and have two years teaching experience - to assume an advisory council of people with no specialized knowledge in literature, child development or education could make better decisions than professional librarians is a poor choice for our state.

Susan Birchfield
AAUW
Corpus Christi, TX

A child who reads is a child who succeeds. School libraries need to exist and provide any and all materials the librarian deems appropriate to expand a child's mind to allow them to learn things about the whole world and not just their little piece of it.

Mallory Melton
Self/Bookseller
Austin, TX

Honorable members of the House Public Education Committee,

I am a Texan concerned with the ongoing attacks on public education and the First Amendment in our state, and I want you to let SB 13 die in committee.

SB 13 creates two new and unconstitutional categories for censorship: vaguely defined "patently offensive" content, without constitutional safeguards; and material containing profanity, again without constitutional safeguards.

It will also make it harder for school libraries to acquire any books at all, regardless of content, by inserting government bureaucracy into the book acquisition process.

We should be making it easier for Texas children to get books, not harder. We should be empowering local schools, parents, and communities to make their own decisions about books, not giving that power to the state government. Mandating these committees will worsen reading outcomes for Texas students by creating an expensive and unnecessary process.

Please vote no on SB 13. This bill should not leave committee.

Kathy Landers
Self.
San Antonio, TX

Remove sexually explicit material from school libraries. It's basically disgusting porn being pedaled to kids to traumatize them and enable sex grooming for transgenders and pedophiles. Protect our kids. We MUST do everything possible to remove these pornographic, sexually explicit materials from our schools, AND prosecute adults who are giving & reading them the porn. Keep our kids safe.

Marty Hoag
self retired educator
NRH, TX

Regards to SB13, the Library Advisory Committee bill. As a retired educator and school library supporter, I am asking you to oppose this bill because it would give a few politically appointed parents decision making power over what books all students in a community have access to. I would like my district to focus on improving math and reading scores instead of worrying about controlling library books. Also, Texas already passed HB 900- a school library bill- that school districts are still working to figure out and implement- so we don't need another one. Please ask your Representatives to vote "no" on SB 13 if it comes up for a committee vote. Thank you.

Benna Askew

Self

Lubbock, TX

It is urgent to get sexually explicit/pornographic books out of our school libraries!

SB13 is critical to fix the READER ACT (last session's HB900) which was intended to remove sexually explicit, pervasively vulgar, age-inappropriate materials from school libraries.

Please support SB 13 (revised)

SB13 clarifies the standards, creates consistent procedures, and ensures accountability at every level so harmful content no longer slips through the cracks.

SB13 makes this possible through parental involvement, oversight in the creation of local school library catalogs, and parental access to a child's library materials.

Paul Leazar

Self

Sachse, TX

Everybody in this House should oppose this bill because it would give a few politically appointed parents decision making power over what books all students in a community have access to. I would like my district to focus on improving math and reading scores instead of worrying about controlling library books. Also, Texas already passed HB 900- a school library bill- that school districts are still working to figure out and implement- so we don't need another one. Please vote NO on SB 13. Thank you.

Bridget Brame

self

Georgetown, TX

My family and friends STRONGLY SUPPORT SB 13 by Paxton.

Why Texas children need this bill:

- SB 13 is the critical fix to the READER Act (last session's HB 900), which was intended to remove sexually explicit, pervasively vulgar, age-inappropriate materials from school libraries.
- SB 13 clarifies the standards, creates consistent procedures, and ensures accountability at every level—so harmful content no longer slips through the cracks.
- SB 13 makes this possible through parental involvement, oversight in the creation of local school library advisory councils, parental authority regarding public school library catalogs, and parental access to a child's library materials.
- Establishing clear, objective content standards so everyone knows what violates state policy.
- Mandating transparent, consistent procedures for handling challenges, including well-documented responses.
- Ensuring accountability for local review committees and school boards.
- Guaranteeing parents a seat at the table with parent-majority advisory councils.
- Providing oversight of book selections and purchases to stop inappropriate books from entering libraries.
- SB 13 does not just patch the law - it creates a fair and responsive system to protect Texas children!

Tammy Fogle

Self

Abilene, TX

We have been exposing our kids to purient material for far too long. I support SB 13.

Nancy Roberts-Knight

Self

Kerrville, TX

Yes on SB13

Amy Hayhurst

Self

Canyon, TX

Please pass this bill! Our tax dollars are funding the schools to sexualize our children. Once these explicit books get in, it is extremely difficult to remove them - if you can even find them. Their subject matter is for adults and the reading level is for a third grader. There is no educational value in them.

Cynthia Balthrop

self/ part-time public school librarian/public library director

Throckmorton, TX

"Hi, my name is Cynthia Diane Balthrop, and I'm writing to you regarding SB13, the Library Advisory Committee bill. As a public school librarian for several small school districts in Texas, a public library director for my hometown, and a grandmother, I am asking you to oppose this bill. It would give a few politically appointed parents decision-making power over what books ALL students in a community's public school have access to. Parents already have the decision-making power to decide what their own children can and cannot read. Most school districts have a certified school librarian or at least contract out with Education Service Centers for this service. Certified school librarians have the training and knowledge to make decisions for their communities and school districts on books for the school library. They already rely on parent and teacher input to help with school library collection development. They know their community's values and needs. School boards have bigger problems to worry about, like budgets, funding, and staff. Please don't add to their already incredible workload! School districts should focus on improving math and reading scores instead of worrying about controlling library books. Also, Texas already passed HB 900- a school library bill- that school districts are still working to figure out and implement, so we don't need another one. Please vote "no" on SB 13 if it comes up for a committee vote. Thank you."

Carolyn Mitchell, Rev

Self

Conroe, TX

May 5, 2025

Dear Senators,

I am of the opinion that we people should support and trust professionally trained librarians to choose books for school libraries. Parents should make the decisions about library books for THEIR OWN children, but not for ALL children. Creating Parent Advisory Councils is burdensome for school districts and an example of government overreach.

I urge you to vote no on bill SB13.

Thank you,

Rev. Carolyn Mitchell

Conroe, Texas

Rhonda Ward

SREC, SD 3 and self, Real Estate Appraiser

Nacogdoches, TX

Parents have the right to access records regarding library books and materials their children check out.

Ebony Kelly

self

Fort Worth, TX

Just because you want your residence uneducated without access to resources, doesn't mean the rest of us want our residence uneducated without access to resources.

Colleen Leyba
Self
McKinney, TX

I fully support SB13 because it restores clarity, consistency, and parental involvement in the review of school and library materials. By setting clear content standards and ensuring accountability at every level, this bill empowers communities to protect children while respecting the role of parents. Establishing parent-majority advisory councils is a crucial step in restoring trust and transparency. SB13 is a common-sense solution that prioritizes both education and family values

Jamie Bechtelheimer, Mrs.
Self
Dallas, TX

As a Texan and a parent and school library supporter, I am urging you to oppose this SB13, the Library Advisory Committee bill. SB13 would give a few politically appointed parents decision making power over what books all students in a community have access to. Please let parents and students decide for their own family what is appropriate to read. Don't take families' freedom to read away from us. At its heart, SB13 and other bills that seek to censor and challenge books is un-American and is a clear move toward anti-intellectualism. We don't need to be told what books we can or cannot read.

I would like my district to focus on improving math and reading scores by increasing funding to public schools instead of worrying about controlling library books. Also, Texas already passed HB 900- a school library bill- that school districts are still working to figure out and implement- so we don't need another one. Please vote "no" on SB 13 if it comes up for a committee vote. Thank you.

Jacob Aguilera
Self
Houston, TX

This bill is actively trying to condemn topics not deemed socially acceptable by the conservative party. I am strongly Against this bill as school is a place for kids to learn about various topics under the supervision of instructors.

Carol Cook, Miss
Self
Kerrville, TX

Children exposed to any type of sexual / pornography at young ages become addicted to it. It is up to the parents of the child, if the child should be viewing the materials & what choices the child needs make regarding their sex or sexual activities. Even sex Ed should be left to the parents. The schools could even reach out to parents to remind them to educate their children regarding puberty.

Abigail Clemencich, RN
self/registered nurse
Allen, TX

My first job was as a page at a public library, and I know firsthand how passionate librarians are about facilitating education, community outreach, and providing media to everyone. While it is of course a parent's right to censor/withhold until a later time what their child reads, no parent should control a library, be that in a school or otherwise, in order to restrict materials to all. The way this bill reads, only a small group of community members would have the power to decide what materials all students can access, would meet too infrequently to create a list of approved/rejected materials, which would create delay when it comes to library acquisitions, and would subjectively decide which library materials are appropriate without adequate training or experience. Let's trust librarians, respect a student's right to learn, and value a student's curiosity.

Holly Gorman
Self, Texas Parent
AUSTIN, TX

Please oppose this bill. It gives too much power over a small group of people to determine what books every child in our district has access to. I trust my local public school librarian to curate a selection of books on a wide range of topics that are appropriate for my children.

I would like my district to focus on improving math and reading scores instead of worrying about controlling library books.

Also, Texas already passed HB 900- a school library bill- that school districts are still working to figure out and implement- so we don't need another one.

April Laird, Ms.
Self
Fredericksburg, TX

I strongly support this bill. Bill 13 must pass. My high school sophomore has so much porn in the school library. It is pathetic. In a little town like ours (Fredericksburg). Please support bill 13 and take the porn out of our schools.

Alicia Bell
Self
Kerrville, TX

I wholeheartedly support SB 13 to get the porn out of public school libraries. I also believe that it should only be in adult-only sections in public libraries.

Sheri Lewis
Self -- I am a 26-year Texas Tech University employee
Lubbock, TX

I'm reaching out with regard to SB13, the Library Advisory Committee bill. As a (parent/Texan/voter) and school library supporter, I am asking you to oppose this bill because it would give a few politically appointed parents decision making power over what books all students in a community have access to. I would like my district to focus on improving math and reading scores instead of worrying about controlling library books. Also, Texas already passed HB 900 -- a school library bill -- that school districts still are trying to figure out and implement -- so we don't need another one. Please vote "no" on SB 13 if it comes up for a committee vote. Thank you.

Brandon Patton
Self/Computer hobbyist
Beaumont, TX

I feel very strongly that this takes responsibility away from parents, rather than granting them more rights. It allows other parents to decide how to parent their kid without their consent. Some parents may not have a problem with what their children read, and not appreciate other parents interfering on their rights. Telling other people what their children can and cannot read is thoroughly unAmerican and a perversion of the Constitution's guarantee of free speech. Leave this to the parents in their own homes, do not let others interfere in their affairs. This bill should not be passed. It is an embarrassment to the state of Texas and our nation as a whole. Thank you for your time.

Lara Elio
self
Gainesville, TX

As Texas parent, I humbly ask that the House do not pass the SB 13. By hindering librarians and teachers from making informed decisions based on their expertise and the needs of their community, this bill will ultimately hurt our children and future generations. C.S. Lewis said, "Since it is so likely that (children) will meet cruel enemies, let them at least have heard of brave knights and heroic courage. Otherwise you are making their destiny not brighter but darker." Narrowing our school library collections to only allow the books that the loud and bigoted to be deemed acceptable, will create a dark future for our children. Please be brave knights and stand against this bill. Thank you.

Patrick Tuter
self
Garland, TX

I am for SB13. The idea that government schools can restrict parents from knowing what their child has access to us against our Constitutional Republic. Schools need oversight and accountability to parents.

PATRICE CORRIGAN
SELF / RETIRED
FORT WORTH, TX

I support SB 13 to allow parents to access the contents of the school libraries and remove objectionable material.

NITA LOWREY
Self
Azle, TX

As a retired teacher, Texan, voter, and school library supporter, I am asking you to oppose this bill because it would give a few politically appointed parents decision making power over what books in a community all students have access to. Texas has already passed HB 900 that school districts are still working to figure out and implement so we don't need another bill.

K. Meador
Self
Dallas, TX

Reject and oppose Texas SB 13. As Republican governor Armstrong said when rejecting a similar bill in ND, this is a misguided attempt to legislate morality through overreach and censorship.

If a parent doesn't think a book is age-appropriate for their child, then that is a parenting decision. It requires parental responsibility to look at the books their child brings home from the school library. It does not require an unelected, whole-of-government approach and taxpayer money.

Reject unelected, taxpayer-funded censorship and vote No on SB 13.

Elizabeth Piner, Ms
Self
Austin, TX

Trained librarians should be the ones to make appropriate recommendations regarding school libraries. I do not want other parents making the decisions as to what my child can access at the library. The state of Texas treats books as a danger more severe than firearms. I oppose this bill. Thank you

Wesley Hesker

Self

Fredericksburg, TX

I support this bill because it gives parents the right and ability to control this content in their own homes without worry that public officials or employees are unduly influencing their children against their consent. Understanding sexual content is deeply structural to any person becoming an adult by leaving that direction to the parents to be charged with that instruction as they see fit.

Gabrielle Vidaurri

Self

San Antonio, TX

At this point i am aware these will be completely ignored because none of you are working for the people anymore just your parties and yourselves. This is insanity stop politicizing libraries. WHO exactly would get to decide what books are appropriate?! Someone with their own agenda rather than someone with the best interests of our students. The public schools are already being targeted by abott. Stop trying to force all of us to be on board with these insane amount of banned books. Honestly most kids don't even read these days, go do something good for Texas. Help Texans not hurt them by destroying education. We're already at the bottom in education and nothing y'all are attempting to do or doing will improve that. I still am of the belief that this will be ignored and that none of you actually care what any Texans want or say.

Kathryn Manck

self - retired

Gilmer, TX

Our school districts need to concentrate on improving math and reading scores, not letting political loudmouths on a committee undermine the professional knowledge that our librarians and teachers are hired for! School librarians are trained in how to select the best books for their students when working with limited funds; they won't purchase or accept books that don't fit the educational needs and general interest reading of their students.

Also, HB 900 has already been passed & school districts and libraries are already working on its implementation - we don't need another school library bill!

Cindy Sultemeier, Mrs

Self

Johnson City, TX

Keep DEI out of schools. Our taxes are paying for reading writing math science history shop class speech music band drama econo journalism educational courses not social issues!! That stays at home. Stop the indoctrination of children with DEI and porn!

Leslie Wright

Self- AI developer

Katy, TX

The wonderful thing about libraries is that there is something for everyone. Everyone can find a topic that appeals to them and no one is forced to read books they don't enjoy. It is every parent's responsibility to supervise their own children and to make sure that what they are reading is appropriate. Asking a small group of strangers to make choices that should be left to parents is a recipe for disaster.

Donita Clark

Self, a retired teacher and grandparent

Lubbock, TX

Please support SB13 because it insures that sexually explicit, vulgar, and age-inappropriate materials are removed from our school libraries. This bill allows parents oversight in the creation of the school library advisory council, gives parents access to catalogs and other materials and the authority to demand removal of such inappropriate materials. SB13 authored by Sen. Angela Paxton strengthens HB 900. This SB13 ensures accountability for local review committees and school boards.

Parents must have a seat at the table with a parent-majority advisory council. As parents will provide necessary oversight in book selections and purchases seen by the students. SB13 is the responsible solution to protecting our Texas school children from the onslaught of vulgarity, porn, and explicit sexual acts and behavior--all of which do not encourage academic learning or appropriate behavior inside or outside the classroom. Test scores would improve dramatically if these detrimental books, resources, materials, catalogs, and etc. were not allowed in our TX schools. SB13 helps provide the necessary safeguards to stop this flow of inappropriate material. Thank you for supporting SB13 and promptly passing it out of the House Public Education Committee and onto the House floor for a vote. Texas families need your help!

Megan Rutherford

Self/High School Librarian

Lubbock, TX

Hi, my name is Megan, and I'm filling this out in regards to SB13, the Library Advisory Committee bill. As a Texas native and recently hired school librarian and former teaching assistant, I am asking you to oppose this bill because it would give a few politically appointed parents decision-making power over what books all students in a community have access to. I would like my district to focus on improving math and reading scores instead of worrying about controlling library books. Also, Texas already passed HB 900- a school library bill- that school districts are still working to figure out and implement, so we don't need another one. Please vote "no" on SB 13 if it comes up for a committee vote. Thank you.

Rodney Casey

Shackelford County Republicans

Albany, TX

This 14 page bill has a lot of great things in it to protect our children! Thank you, Senator Paxton for submitting it! We want the next generation to make choices that we are proud of. If we let good things into their minds, they will make much better choices! However, garbage in garbage out. Please consider our children!

Sincerely,

Rodney Casey

Kim Karp
self/ librarian
McKinney, TX

I respectfully urge the House Public Education Committee to oppose SB 13. While parental involvement and community engagement are vital in education, this bill imposes unnecessary restrictions that threaten students' access to information, diminish the professional role of school librarians, and open the door to politicized censorship.

SB 13 requires that parents be notified every time their child checks out a library book. This is a burdensome and intrusive mandate that undermines students' right to read and explore ideas independently. It also imposes a significant logistical strain on educators and staff without meaningful benefit to student safety or academic success.

The bill's requirement for school boards to approve every library purchase—after a 30-day public comment period—delays students' access to timely, relevant, and diverse materials. This approach sends a clear message that school librarians, who are trained professionals, cannot be trusted to select age-appropriate and educational content. That is both disrespectful and counterproductive.

Further, the bill establishes Local School Library Advisory Councils appointed by school boards. While community input is important, granting unelected councils broad authority to recommend removals based on vague standards like "harmful" or "inconsistent with local community values" creates a pathway for ideological censorship. These councils may not reflect the diversity of the entire school community and may be pressured by political interests rather than educational ones.

Even more concerning is the requirement that any material under reconsideration be removed from shelves during the review process. This presumes guilt before review, suppresses access to ideas, and contradicts principles of due process and intellectual freedom.

Our school libraries exist to encourage reading, support academic inquiry, and expose students to a range of perspectives. SB 13 replaces trust with suspicion, professionalism with politics, and openness with fear. It will chill the learning environment and send a message to students that some books—and by extension, some voices—are not welcome.

For the sake of our students, our educators, and the integrity of public education, I urge this committee to vote no on SB 13.

Respectfully,
Kim Karp

Kathy Vandevender, Mrs.
Self
Shallowater, TX

As a retired school teacher, I think it was ludicrous to have these books available for young guys to look at that have a developmental mind that could be affected for the rest of their life!!!! I can't see some of the stuff I've seen and I'm 74 years old! Very much for this happening in my library now take it away!!!!

Karla Pagán
Self
Keller, TX
Against.

Ty Burns

Self - Retired Educator

Houston, TX

Parents have always had the right to limit and monitor what they are reading. It is not their job to define what other children can or cannot read. This bill takes away the protection given to educators, librarians, and even parents of other children for providing information that children need. Information on personal health care, issues with unsafe sex, or just acceptance of others who are not like the objectors.

This allows people to file frivolous other adults who may provide materials with subjects the accuser finds inappropriate. This will further tie up our court systems that are already heavily overloaded. A parent committee with appointed individuals that will not necessarily have the point of view of a majority of the school district. This is why there is already a challenge process in place that has worked for decades in the school systems. If it goes all the way up to the Board of Education, then they are elected representatives by the people of that governing entity to make a decision.

In the past few years, objecting to books that personally offend a single person has led to the banning of historically accurate books because the book offended the accuser. Books that have the details of our history. While I was an educator a parent objected to a book about the crusades. She did not like how women were treated as property and the brutal and bloody battles that were part of the crusades. She wanted a book about that time that did not have those topics.

We cannot clean our history because it is offensive, we learn from our history to make the world better and so we do not repeat it. Ignoring history's mistakes or errors in judgement can doom us all.

Paul Leonard

Self--- missionary to Africa

Fredericksburg, TX

May the gathered representatives kindly consider the extreme importance before us all as Americans of rebuilding the values, principles, and foundations of this great country "under God", which were laid by our founders, and which bestowed such great blessings upon us from Almighty God. For it was George Washington himself who stated that the FUTURE of this nation "depended on the Christian training of our youth"!! They understood the values that would be required in order for this nation to prosper. And so they put the Bible in the schools, even Thomas Jefferson. Such were the early days of America that "Laus Deo"(Praise be to God) were inscribed on the apex of the Washington monument, church services were held in the Capitol building, and the highest court in the land wrote in the majority opinion of a case in 1892 that America is a Christian nation. The Lord said, "Let the children come to Me" , and warned of the GRAVE consequences for anyone who would cause one of these little to stumble. Therefore, far be it for anyone to willfully open the door to any of these precious children being offended and their minds corrupted by any ungodly, indecent, or pornographic material within any of our school systems. Such material have no place in our schools, and stringent oversight should be taken to look out for the wholesome well-being of our children that they may be recipients of Almighty God's blessings. God bless you in your deliberations, and God bless America. Paul Leonard, Fredericksburg, TX 78624

Bridget Brame

self

Georgetown, TX

My family and friends STRONGLY SUPPORT SB 13 (Paxton). SB 13 strengthens the READER Act by clarifying vague definitions, enforcing consistent standards, and empowering parents to finally remove sexually explicit material from public school libraries.

Kenneth Hollingsworth

SELF

Duncanville, TX

SB13 fills in the loopholes in the past session's HB900. We need this to be passed.

This bill clarifies the standards and enables parents to be aware of possible lewd and age-inappropriate materials in school and public libraries.

Brandon Burden, Mr.

Daniel Nation

TX, TX

Dear Committee,

Please vote in favor of Senator Paxton's bill SB13.

I testified in favor of HB 900 (the READER Act) in committee when it passed in 2023. However, experience has shown us that this bill had some major loopholes since becoming law.

SB13 will fix these loopholes by clarifying content standards. It will require consistent review procedures and ensure accountability and transparency, giving parents a voice.

We need SB13 for the protection of our children. Please vote yes.

Kindest regards,

Brandon Burden

President & Founder

Daniel Nation

Brian Lee

Self retired

El Paso, TX

Hello, I am writing to ask you to support this bill.

Cathy Stroud, Retired teacher

None

Gainesville, TX

I am totally in favor of Senator Paxton's bill, SB 13. HB 900 didn't fix the problem. I know it from experience working to remove harmful books in the public schools in my county. Please push this bill through for the sake of our young people. They are our future! They must be protected from this filth and taxpayers shouldn't be paying for such. Thank you so very much! Respectfully
Cathy Stroud

Glenn Lowrance

Citizens for Education Reform

Lubbock, TX

Sexually explicit books. How can having these books in the libraries with accessibility by our children ever be acceptable? Texas prisons do not even allow these books into their libraries. Let's stop this assault on our children in Texas right now. Place accountability and punishment on the school districts that fail or refuse to remove these books and keep them off the shelves for good.

Once the content is seen in these books, it cannot be unseen. Especially when a child's innocence is robbed by the content. NOW is the time to shut this content down!!!

Nancy Cramblit, Mrs.

Self/Benefits Portal Construction

Colleyville, TX

I whole heartedly request your support for this bill that creates a fair and responsive system to protect Texas children. It defines clearly what content is unacceptable and the standards for enforcement!

Gwendolyn Melkild

self

Allen, TX

This bill gives a group of politically appointed parents the power to restrict school library materials for all students in a school district. HB 900 has already caused a huge amount of overhead for school librarians and caused teachers to not add to their classroom libraries for fear of unintentionally violating it. The last thing we need is further restriction of library materials available to Texas students. As a parent of a elementary student in Texas public schools, and as a PTA volunteer working to help add books to libraries to support our kids literacy, I strongly oppose the restrictions in SB 13 as currently written.

Gretchen Murphy

self

Austin, TX

This is a bad bill that will hurt public libraries and takes freedoms away from families. Please keep the state out of our parenting decisions. We do not want a few politically appointed parents making decisions about the availability of books for us all. Focus on better education for all instead of restricting access to library books!

Leslie Thomas

Self/ SREC 22 Attorney

Blum, TX

Parents should have ultimate authority over what their children are exposed to, not a stranger. School libraries should have the best and most wholesome materials for young, impressionable minds, not perverse and distorted views of warped adults.

Kathy Ponce

Self

Maypearl, TX

I support this bill. Please pass this bill out of committee.

Parental rights and protecting kids matters

Linda Boxberger

Book Lovers Unite

Austin, TX

Librarians need to choose a school's library books and students need to be able to be free to browse and learn about what interests them.

Shelley Sallee

Self

Austin, TX

I urge you to oppose SB 13. Parents and citizens are always free to speak to librarians about any book that concerns them. No one is being forced to check out books. The creation of advisory councils and parental rights groups is a cover for extremists who have an agenda. Our public libraries are not a problem. Cell phones in the hands of children do way more harm. As the daughter of a public school librarian, be wary of bills that are about censorship. As a teacher, we need to be more worried that young people do not read as much as they used to and about all of the harm Chatgpt can cause to learning. Libraries are not problems.

alex inman

self

San Antonio, TX

I don't believe parents should have a say in school libraries. It is a public library the same way that the public libraries exist. It is a disgrace that you're trying to ban books and you're trying to censor media that children see.

Bob Wallace

Self

Llano, TX

Dead End by Jasón Myers has been found in Deer Park ISD. It states on Page 56 “Have you ever sucked a dick and swallowed the come before?”

I could go on but don't think it's required. Vote YES on this bill to protect Texas minors.

Autumn Lauener

Texas Transgender Nondiscrimination Scholars

Houston, TX

My name is Autumn Lauener, I'm a transgender Texan and Vice President of the Texas Transgender Nondiscrimination Scholars. I'm writing in opposition to SB 13 on behalf of our organization and myself.

There is a quiet, powerful moment that many students experience in a school library - especially those of us who are LGBTQ+ or otherwise marginalized. It's the moment we unearth a mirror. Not a literal one, but a passage, a character, a line in a book that reflects us back to ourselves. For some, it's the first time we truly feel seen. For others, it's the first time we realize we're not alone.

SB 13 threatens to bury those mirrors. It threatens to rob children of those experiences.

This bill uses vague and ideologically loaded terms like “indecent” or “profane” weaponize state power to erase entire stories, particularly those that center queer and trans lives. It targets only public schools, creating a double standard that punishes the students who rely on those institutions most - rural students, low-income students, and students of color. If this were about values, it would be universal to all students regardless of enrollment model. Instead, it's about control.

Texans take pride in liberty, personal responsibility, and the right to self-determination. SB 13 betrays those values by inviting the state into the private terrain of thought and imagination. It chills the intellectual freedom that defines a functioning democracy.

This bill doesn't just silence imagination – it empowers discrimination. When you strip away stories that affirm LGBTQ+ existence, you don't make those students safer. You make them invisible. You deny them the psychological tools of resilience and belonging that are vital for survival.

I urge you to reject SB 13. Let our libraries remain places of discovery, not fear. Let students continue to unearth those mirrors, and in doing so, find their place in this world.

Judith Kaplan

Self

Austin, TX

I am a retired children's librarian with a Master's in Library Science and 4 state certifications- EC-4th General; 4th-8th Reading and Language Arts; English as a Second Language; and certification as a librarian.

I have two problems with SB13.

This is clearly not about parental rights. It allows a panel of 5, 10, or more parents to decide for hundreds, thousands, or many thousands of parents what their children should have access to. This should be an individual parent's choice what books their child can and cannot read as it is now.

I also have concerns that the parents on these panels will not have the knowledge to advise librarians what they should or should not have in the libraries they manage.

If they lack knowledge of collection development and numerous resources used by librarians to do this. Lack of the weeding process. Not consulting with teachers to support lesson plans. Lack of knowledge of awards for children's and young adult's literature or lists of recommended books in librarian journals and the Texas Library Association.

In addition ordering only twice a year is not sufficient. I would normally place orders 5 or 6 times a year at least.

This bill would also affect book fairs which many librarians hold twice each school year.

The overwhelming majority of students never go to a public library. The only library they have access to is their school library. The primary goal of librarians is to make lifelong readers and to encourage children and teenagers to love books and reading.

Laura Martinez

self- homemaker

Austin, TX

My name is Laura Martinez and I oppose SB 13. As a parent of grown children and grandparent of little ones, I cherish the school libraries and skilled librarians that have been available to us here in Texas, in Virginia, Washington State and overseas in Department of Defense schools where our Army family was stationed. Military friends who are still in DODEA schools have shared how devastated their kids have been in the past months when recent restrictions came into effect - removing books from libraries and removing posters from classrooms. All children should have access to books that reflect their reality and offer them windows to different parts of the world. I have major concerns particularly that being able to remove books for being "Inconsistent with local community values" will prevent many children from being able to read about their own histories because of who defines community values. Individual parents have control and choice of what types of books their children read but should not have the ability to limit what others have access to. I urge you to reject SB 13.

Levi Fiedler

Texas Freedom Network and Self

Austin, TX

The Texas Freedom Network is an organization of parents, young people, faith leaders, and other Texans who support public education and LGBTQIA+ equality.

Every parent, regardless of race, class, and gender identity, wants their child to feel safe at school. No one wants to send their child to a school where laws could make their child more vulnerable to bullying, stigma, or shame — but SB 13 would do just that. Oftentimes, books are the first time that students see themselves, and removing them can harm children's mental health, self esteem, and ability to believe they have a beautiful future.

There was no closet or hiding for me as a kid. Everyone knew I was queer whether I told them or not, and while that got me a lot of cruelty, hate, and even violence, it also made the quietly queer kids feel safe with me. Some were too scared to ever say out loud how they felt - so they would leave little notes in library books that had queer characters, knowing that kids like them would stumble across them. Multiple times as a child, I found bookmarks addressed to me thanking me for giving them hope.

Make no mistake: we know that book bans like SB 13 intend to strip that hope, shared language, and community from kids. Banning books about queer people and people of color is intended to prevent kids like me from believing in themselves and their future. This legislature has made it clear time and time again that it wants my community, especially trans and immigrant kids, to feel afraid, isolated, and hopeless.

To those kids, I say: you are seen. You are valued. You are important. And just like me, you will grow up to change the world regardless of what this legislature tries to tell you.

Vote no on SB 13.

Jennifer Margulies
Texas Jews for Democracy
Austin, TX

UPDATED COMMENT at 3:15 AM when unable to testify after morning registration:

Good morning, my name is Jen Margulies, against SB 13 for myself and as a representative of Texas Jews for Democracy.

This bill is deeply concerning, as it provides an overly broad mechanism for censorship that would leave Texas students less prepared to participate as active and informed members of our shared society.

As Jews, we're aware that similar efforts in Texas resulted in age-appropriate books about the Holocaust being pulled from school shelves. As supporters of democracy, we know that students need access to a wide range of materials to help them understand the world, not just materials that might be popular among a group of ideologically motivated community censors.

All Texas children deserve to see themselves represented in their public school libraries, regardless of their race, religion, or any other identity category. Particularly egregiously, this bill would give community advisory councils influence over trained school librarians' acquisition of books, on the vague basis of whether proposed library materials are "consistent with local community values." As religious and cultural minorities, this phrase raises a serious red flag. Someone's interpretation of local community values may include, for example, Holocaust denial, or "protecting" children from information about other religions or cultures. We do our Texas students a grave disservice when we put their access to information in the hands of these advisory councils as written, which are so vulnerable to ideological manipulation.

I want to close by quoting from a statement put out this week by the Central Conference of American Rabbi, who wrote, in part, that our ideals of democracy, liberty, and religious freedom "face threats from rising white Christian nationalism spreading throughout American society and, to our great alarm, our government. White Christian nationalism is a political and cultural ideology that seeks to merge the identity of the state with conservative evangelical Christianity. This ideology is often accompanied by a racially exclusionary vision that emphasizes white dominance in political, social, and cultural structures, rewrites US history to exaggerate the Christian religious motivation of the founders; downplays the history and the contributions of non-Christians and communities of color ... and tries to revamp school curricula, library holdings, and media coverage to emphasize Christian nationalist values..."

I fear the ways in which SB 13 would leave Texas public schools at the mercy of particular agendas that are antithetical to our pluralist Texas, which contains diverse multitudes.

Please overhaul or vote no on SB 13. Thank you.

Melanie Skoog
Self
Lubbock, TX

This is micromanagement to the extreme, and would be a waste of time and resources in public education. It will serve to limit the number of new books schools are able to provide simply because of the tedious, repetitive, ridiculous amount of red tape and steps involved. This is NOT small government, this is an example of government overreach and the state government creating a problem where there was none.

Jordan Pacelli Everett
Prevention Institute
Houston, TX

My name is Jordan Pacelli Everett (jordan@preventioninstitute.org). I'm a licensed social worker in the state of Texas, and live in Houston. I work for Prevention Institute, a national public health organization. We coordinate the Houston-region based Communities of Care initiative which brings together community members to address a wide range of needs related to mental health and wellbeing for children including improving the education system to support better mental health outcomes for the young people in our communities.

I am writing to oppose SB 13. If you continue to pass bills that restrict what can be read in school libraries and learned about in classrooms, you punish millions of Texas students. Due to recent similar legislation already in place, there has been a chilling effect that compromises students' educational opportunities in their schools and their exposure to valuable experiences to prepare them for higher education, the workforce, and success in life.

SB 13 invalidates the real-life experiences of students of color, young women, and other learners, which has long-term impacts on their mental wellbeing.

SB 13 will harm white students, male students, and straight students who will miss opportunities to understand their peers' experiences and how all histories and experiences influence our diverse American society. There will be a further disconnect between what is taught in schools and the reality of living in our diverse Texas communities and workplaces. School is the best space to introduce these topics to make better neighbors and co-workers in the future. SB 13 will push good quality teachers and librarians away from our public schools and even our state. As a parent, I would much prefer the books in my child's school library to be selected by a qualified, experienced librarian with a Masters in Library Science who knows what is age-appropriate, than a political appointee. I appreciate your consideration of my opposition to this harmful bill.

Debra Ragan
Self
SAN ANTONIO, TX

I oppose censorship and support freedom to read. This assault on American freedom of choice must stop.

Kimmie Fiink
Self/Senior Editor, BBC Learning
Liberty Hill, TX

My name is Kimmie Fink, and I am the mother of two public school students in Liberty Hill Independent School District. I unequivocally OPPOSE SB13. This bill doesn't protect parental rights. It tramples them. My kids (all ALL children in Texas) have the right to access books that reflect their unique identities and experiences. It's very clear that this bill's sponsors only care about the parental rights of a few parents that subscribe to the exact same belief systems as they do. And that doesn't reflect the diversity of the State of Texas. Thank you for your time. Please do your jobs.

Diana Chambless
self
Bullard, TX

FULLY SUPPORT SB 13! This bill clears up any ambiguities from The READER Act and ensures that inappropriate books don't continue to make their way into our K-12 public schools in the first place.

Jennifer Eckert
Self - librarian
San Antonio, TX

I oppose this bill and urge you to as well. This is a bad bill that would devastate our Texas school libraries. The overly broad categories of prohibited books would remove so many wonderful titles from the shelves. And placing purchasing and reconsideration oversight into the hands of a few politically appointed community members and volunteers will lead to broad censorship. I am a librarian - we are professionals trained in collection development. Schools districts have procedures and processes for handling challenges. This bill removes that local control and puts it in the hands of just a few people at the state level. This will not do anything to keep kids "safe" from books. This will only restrict access and increase censorship for students all over Texas. And they deserve better. Please let this bill die in committee. Thank you.

Allison Whitney
Self. Educator
Lubbock, TX

This legislation will place an undue burden on libraries in the state. Parents are responsible for communicating with their own children about their values and ideas, but this should not extend to denying every other child in their community access to reading materials. It is not necessary, nor is it sound pedagogy, to create additional barriers and costs to school library operations.

WILLIAM CARVER
SELF
BULLARD, TX

I support SB 13 - it clears up any questions regarding what books are inappropriate and helps stop those books from coming into the library in the first place. This bill has the FULL SUPPORT of parents and grandparents who love their children and grandchildren. Let kids be kids!

Anna Menjares, Chaplain
Self
Lubbock, TX

Our children shouldn't have access to. Certain reading material

Deborah Schmittou, Retired librarian
TRS Retired Librarians
PLANO, TX

School librarians are very dedicated individuals and are highly trained for the job that they were hired to do. Committees are not trained in collection development and in no way should choosing what books as school community needs. I am in agreement about the parental rights component. However, as a retired 25 year librarian, I am aghast at what is happening to school library collections. Please vote against this bill for the betterment of young readers and let librarians do their jobs. This is very heavy handed and not what is best for kids.

Cristina Adams

Self (& Texas voters who believe in books and small government)

Austin, TX

I am writing as a parent, voter and taxpaying Texan to express my vehement opposition to SB13. This misguided and politically infused bill not only infringes on my rights as a taxpayer, but it is also an overreach of governmental power. It takes away individual freedoms from parents, students, community members, and school board trustees to review and regulate school library materials and instead gives the authority to a small group of politically appointed School Library Advisory Council members.

These members would likely not be trained library professionals or teachers who are qualified to make library curation decisions. In fact, SB13 does not even require all council members to have children enrolled in the public school system the committee allegedly represents. "Library curation and collection development decisions should be left to trained librarians with input from a variety of local stakeholders.

Under SB13, School Library Advisory Councils would have the power to remove library materials from school libraries that are inconsistent with "community values." The values of certain community members should not be prioritized above others. Despite what some members of the Texas Legislature may believe, there is NO PLACE for politics in our children's schools, or in ANY schools. That was a standard conservative principle that has been lost in the scramble for power. Keep politics out of our schools and oppose SB13. It doesn't deserve to see the light of day.

Brigid Krizek

Self

Lubbock, TX

This bill has no purpose but to undermine libraries. Parents who don't want certain books in libraries should keep their children away from libraries. Vote No

Denise Bell

Moms for Liberty, Chapter Chair for Harris County

Houston, TX

As a Mom of 4 children, I have been concerned for years about the sexually explicit material that is available to students in public schools across the State of TX. This deep concern has led me to challenge more than a dozen books in my own school district (Spring Branch ISD in Houston), as well as give public comment during multiple school district board meetings across the Houston area. In spite of the hate and backlash I have received for speaking out, I will continue to do so because children are being HARMED by the inappropriate content in our schools! Unfortunately, in spite of previous legislative efforts in the State of TX (HB 900) to stop sexually explicit books from being in TX schools, the sexually explicit books REMAIN on school library and classroom shelves, and continue to do tremendous psychological harm to the children of TX. THIS MUST STOP!! We need further legislation to motivate school districts to remove the filth that remains accessible to children using TAX PAYER MONEY!! I strongly urge the House Public Education Committee to pass SB 13. This bill would help do the following things: 1) Clarify content standards, 2) Require consistent book review procedures, 3) Ensure accountability and transparency 4) Give parents a voice!

I would like to give you a specific example that SB 13 would help correct. SB 13 prohibits materials containing links or QR codes that lead to online content that is prohibited by the bill. A book that WAS available to MIDDLE SCHOOLERS in SBISD called "This Book Is Gay" by Juno Dawson, contains links to dating app "hook up" sites like "Grindr" (a LGBTQ dating app), and TEACHES CHILDREN how to navigate the app. This is not only unacceptable, but it is dangerous for TX schools to be providing a book that serves as a guide for how to use a questionable dating app that is supposed to be for adults only. Not only this, but the book gives specific instructions for how to perform various sex acts, and many of those acts come with higher risks for STD's (like anal sex). Although this horrific book was removed from my school district, it remains on many school shelves across TX.

Thank you for taking the time to review my testimony. I hope that the House Public Education Committee will swiftly pass SB 13 out of committee, and allow the House to vote on and ultimately pass this much needed legislation.

Laura Kilaen

self, stay-at-home mother

Austin, TX

As a parent, Texan, and school library supporter, I oppose SB13. This bill would let a few appointed unaccountable parents with no training make decisions for what everyone else's children can read in their school library. We already have trained professionals curating the books in public libraries to make sure they are age appropriate. Those people are school librarians. If a specific school librarian isn't doing their job properly, their school leadership should address it rather than the state adding yet another layer of bureaucracy that will cause massive delays in acquiring any materials.

Thank you.

Peni Griffin

self, housewife

SAN ANTONIO, TX

Back in the 70s, when I was in elementary school, there was a kerfluffle in my West Texas school system about some animal husbandry books in a school library. They were practical books about livestock raising, as straightforward about how the calf got into the cow as a rancher needs to be. The school, however, was in town, and a single town parent objected to the books as "pornographic." Fortunately saner heads prevailed - that time.

Texas has a bad reputation in the library and education sphere, because a small handful of people as prudish and ignorant as those town parents make so much noise that national textbooks feel obliged to leave out or talk around science and history that these people might object to, and this is just more of the same. The only people who object to the kind of sex-related information in the kinds of book bought by our already underfunded and understaffed school libraries are prudes and child molesters. For all their insistence that sex should only be taught in the home, prudes won't teach their kids about it, and child molesters like nothing so much as a population of bewildered children who don't understand their own bodies. Censorship and second-guessing trained library and education professionals are a great way to get teen pregnancies and pedophile rings. Informed children are safe children!

As for the oh-so-controversial queer community - where do you think we came from? There's been so much time and effort wasted on preventing queer people by making us miserable, and yet here we are. Intersex children need to know that their non-standard bodies are not freakish. Trans children need to know that their relationship to their body is not something other people have any right to police and that they can come to terms with, over time, with the help and support of their loving families. Gay, lesbian, bisexual, pan, asexual, genderqueer, and heterosexual people all need to be able to find each other and be accepted by each other as people, not as all these little boxy categories that are only necessary to go around defining because other people can't mind their own business. I didn't know what a bisexual person was when I graduated high school, but guess what? I was one anyway. My existence is not a sensitive topic. My best friend's genderfluid child is as entitled to find their experience reflected in the literature available to them as my (apparently; I never asked because it's not my business) cis niece is. No human being is a dirty little secret.

History shows that crackdowns on "indecency" and "pornography" suppress valuable educational material - such as how to do a breast exam - and single out the mere existence of queer people as nasty, while actual explicit sexual material continues unabated. This bill will do the exact same thing, at considerable taxpayer expense. It is a stupid and dangerous bill. Nix it.

Peni Griffin
self, housewife
SAN ANTONIO, TX

Back in the 70s, when I was in elementary school, there was a kerfluffle in my West Texas school system about some animal husbandry books in a school library. They were practical books about livestock raising, as straightforward about how the calf got into the cow as a rancher needs to be. The school, however, was in town, and a single town parent objected to the books as "pornographic." Fortunately saner heads prevailed - that time.

Texas has a bad reputation in the library and education sphere, because a small handful of people as prudish and ignorant as those town parents make so much noise that national textbooks feel obliged to leave out or talk around science and history that these people might object to, and this is just more of the same. The only people who object to the kind of sex-related information in the kinds of book bought by our already underfunded and understaffed school libraries are prudes and child molesters. For all their insistence that sex should only be taught in the home, prudes won't teach their kids about it, and child molesters like nothing so much as a population of bewildered children who don't understand their own bodies. Censorship and second-guessing trained library and education professionals are a great way to get teen pregnancies and pedophile rings. Informed children are safe children!

As for the oh-so-controversial queer community - where do you think we came from? There's been so much time and effort wasted on preventing queer people by making us miserable, and yet here we are. Intersex children need to know that their non-standard bodies are not freakish. Trans children need to know that their relationship to their body is not something other people have any right to police and that they can come to terms with, over time, with the help and support of their loving families. Gay, lesbian, bisexual, pan, asexual, genderqueer, and heterosexual people all need to be able to find each other and be accepted by each other as people, not as all these little boxy categories that are only necessary to go around defining because other people can't mind their own business. I didn't know what a bisexual person was when I graduated high school, but guess what? I was one anyway. My existence is not a sensitive topic. My best friend's genderfluid child is as entitled to find their experience reflected in the literature available to them as my (apparently; I never asked because it's not my business) cis niece is. No human being is a dirty little secret.

History shows that crackdowns on "indecentcy" and "pornography" suppress valuable educational material - such as how to do a breast exam - and single out the mere existence of queer people as nasty, while actual explicit sexual material continues unabated. This bill will do the exact same thing, at considerable taxpayer expense. It is a stupid and dangerous bill. Nix it.

Deborah Rowan, Mrs
Retired public educator
Lubbock, TX

Having a committee to approve books, then wait 30 days for a public review, then wait for school board approval is an onerous process! Parents and other citizens who do not read middle or high school books or talk to students, would make totally uninformed decisions. How many parents know what their children are viewing on YouTube or Tik Tok? How many parents visit their child's school library to even know what is available? Do they talk to their child about what they read? This bill should NOT be voted out of committee!

This bill should NOT be approved! The would simply make it nearly impossible for any new books to

Amy Moore

Self

Austin, TX

I am a Texas resident, taxpayer, public school graduate, wife and mother, and I am urging you to oppose SB 13. I am trying to understand why this bill is needed. Our school librarians are professionals with masters degrees, who operate school libraries under a litany of standards and processes set by local school boards. I do not understand how legislators who meet once every two years, and who probably haven't been in a Texas public or charter school library in decades know more than our dedicated school librarians.

This is a misguided bill at best, and a book banning bill at worst. I do not believe that a select group of parents should have the final say on which books can be purchased or donated to a school library. This is allowing a small unelected group the power to decide what all children in the district have access to. That is not democracy and it definitely infringes on parental rights.

This bill also puts an enormous burden on school districts. According to the fiscal impact note, school districts are likely to incur costs for creating systems to notify parents of checked out materials, developing notification systems, and costs incurred for hosting the library advisory council meetings. This is an unfunded mandate at a time when our legislators have not passed our public school funding bill yet.

I urge you to oppose SB 13. Please do not allow a misguided bill to micromanage our school libraries. Instead, please focus on funding our public schools so they can focus on educating the 5.5 million public school students in the great state of Texas.

Heather Laguire

self

Frisco, TX

Passing SB 13 is vital to the protection of our children.

The citizens spoke loudly that we needed the READER Act; but to achieve its goals, we need SB 13 to:

Guarantee accountability

Ensure oversight of materials available to our children in libraries

Bring clarity to content standards

Provide consistent review instructions

Enable parents to have the advisory voice they deserve.

I urge you to do all within your power to make sure this bill passes.

Mary Anne Bradley

Self

PLANO, TX

As a Texas parent and seventh generation Texan, I am DISGUSTED by the book banning bill that is Senate Bill 13 from Paxton. SB13 is an ALL-OUT attack on TRUTH, FREEDOM, and the RIGHT of every child to see themselves in the books they read. If politicians like Paxton ACTUALLY cared about education, they would be funding our schools and RAISING teacher pay. Instead our politicians are pushing fear and censorship by banning books to score points with EXTREMISTS. Our sons and daughters deserve the right to read the books they want to read. Our Texas librarians and educators should be TRUSTED to guide students and not fear the RISK of losing their careers because they offered honest and inclusive learning reading material. Our Texas librarians and educators should NOT be forced to act as censorship POLICE. Our kids deserve to grow up in a state where they are FREE to READ whatever. The truth and history MATTERS. Visibility is NOT a threat. Please vote NO on SB 13.

Carlyn Goodwin

Self

Garland, TX

School districts don't need library advisory councils. They have librarians. Librarians have advanced degrees in their fields and are the best people to choose books for the collections. This bill will waste taxpayer money, create unnecessary bureaucracy, and violate the first amendment rights of students.

Sheila Whitford

Self/Retired educator (50+yrs)

Houston, TX

I oppose the passing of SB13. Librarians and teachers are trained professionals who know the appropriate reading materials that children need to be successful thinkers, innovators, empathetic, and accepting citizen of those different from themselves. Allowing adults without appropriate training who are just parents trying to protect their children from beliefs that they oppose is not the appropriate action to take. Yes, parents should have input on what "their " children read not all children. I was one of those teachers who recognized that the majority of my students, Black and Latinx, had no real idea about the authors from their cultures. When I introduced Gary Soto, Octavio Paz, Richard Wright, Alice Walker, I had a young Latinx man say to me "I didn't know Mexicans wrote books." Why would you ever consider putting adults in an advisory capacity who do not have any knowledge of the vast cultural literature that all children and young people need to have exposure with in such a powerful position? Unless you too have not be appropriately exposed to other culture's literature. Sad for you.

Marj Atkinson

self, librarian and self-employed researcher

Garland, TX

I am writing to express my deep concern and strong opposition to Texas Senate Bill 13 (SB13), which proposes sweeping changes to the management and oversight of public school library materials and catalogs. As a former school library staff member, academic librarian, non-profit librarian, and researcher, I have dedicated my career to supporting students, educators, and communities through equitable access to information and educational resources. The professional expertise of librarians, like myself, is crucial in this mission. SB13 threatens this very foundation of effective school libraries and undermines the professional expertise of librarians across Texas.

SB13 Is Redundant and Logistically Unfeasible

Texas schools already have clear, transparent policies for parents and community members to challenge library materials. SB13's requirements, such as creating local school library advisory councils, mandating board approval for every new acquisition, and imposing lengthy public review periods, are unnecessary and would create a logistical nightmare for already understaffed and under-resourced school libraries. These burdensome mandates would slow or halt the addition of new materials, leaving students with outdated collections and fewer opportunities to engage with current and relevant resources.

Undermining Professional Judgment and Intellectual Freedom

SB13 would shift decision-making power from trained, credentialed librarians to advisory councils and school boards, many of whom lack the expertise to evaluate educational materials. This shift could open the door to censorship based on subjective or political motivations, a prospect that should instill fear. In my experience, such overreach limits students' intellectual freedom and disproportionately affects marginalized voices and topics, depriving students of the diverse perspectives they need to thrive in a global society.

Parental Rights Are Already Protected

The bill's expansion of parental rights, such as notification of every book checked out and the ability to restrict access for individual children, is redundant. These rights are already protected under existing Texas law and district policies. More bureaucracy will create confusion, increase staff workload, and risk violating student privacy.

A Double Standard for Private Schools

It is particularly troubling that SB13 targets only public schools, while taxpayer dollars are now directed to private schools through voucher programs. If these requirements are truly about protecting children, they should apply equally to all educational institutions receiving public funding, not just public schools already struggling with limited resources.

I urge you to oppose SB13 and instead support policies that respect the existing, effective processes for material review and challenge, without imposing needless burdens on our schools and staff.

Thank you for your attention to this critical issue.

Sincerely,

Marj Atkinson, MLS

Carla Nordstrom

Self

Lubbock, TX

Sexually explicit books and materials have no place in schools. This bill will clarify and strengthen what HB 900 started and ensure accountability.

Jodi Eckberg
Self
Lakeway, TX

As a long-time Austin area resident and believer in a fair and equitable educational system, I strongly urge lawmakers to vote NO on SB 13. Parents already have the right to choose what their kids read in school. This bill is clearly about government overreach and more specifically, book banning that primarily targets books about LGBTQIA+ people, and Black and brown people.

Given the recent school board elections, it's also clear to me that the people in Texas don't want more book banning. It's truly unbelievable and incredibly sad that Texas has been "leading" the country in banning books.

SB 13 is not only an attack on students, librarians, and the idea of a free and inclusive public education but also truth, freedom, and the right of every child to see themselves in the books they read. SB 13 empowers political appointees and bad actors to decide what our kids can and can't read. It's censorship, and it especially targets LGBTQIA+ youth and communities of color under the false pretense of "parental control." Trained librarians and educators shouldn't be forced to act as censorship police. They should be trusted to guide students, not having to risk their careers for offering honest, inclusive learning. Lawmakers pushing SB 13 aren't protecting children. They're policing identity, targeting families, and fueling a culture war.

If politicians actually cared about education, you'd be funding our schools and raising teacher pay, not pushing fear and censorship by banning books to score points with extremists. Please vote NO on SB 13. Thank you for your consideration.

Elizabeth Morgan
self-paralegal
Austin, TX

Hello. I am a lifelong Texan, currently living in Austin. I grew up attending Texas public schools. I am against SB 13.

Librarians and educators shouldn't be forced to act as censorship police. They should be trusted to guide students, not having to risk their careers for offering honest, inclusive learning. This bill is not about education or providing our schoolchildren with material to make them educated, well-rounded, productive members of society.

This is a dangerous bill that is an attack on truth, freedom, and the right of every child to see themselves in the books they read. Bills like this are really about policing identity, targeting families, and fueling a culture war.

I strongly urge you to oppose and vote against this awful bill.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Tonya Gilliam, Mrs
CFER
Lubbock, TX

These books are destroying the minds of our children, they must be removed!!

Lynda Stoll
Self
Lubbock, TX

Please do not pass SB13! Texans are sending a clear message that they do NOT want book bans and consider book banners extreme just look at 20 school board elections this last Saturday, in only 4 of them were book banning school board members allowed to remain! Please do not pass SB 13! No book bans in our schools!

Gaylyn DeVine

Self, Business Owner, SREC SD11

Pearland, TX

In Favor- my tax dollars should NOT be providing indecent materials in public school libraries! I strongly support SB13 and ensure accountability with regular review procedures. Please vote in favor of SB 13 and force parents who want this harmful material around their children purchase it at their own expense!

Roxie Pranglin

self

Seguin, TX

Please block Senate Bill 13! As a parent, grandparent and tax payer, I implore you to stop this madness of trying to control our lives. I was/am more than capable of monitoring what the young people in my family read. We do not need councils, meeting infrequently to manage this for us. What I may allow my children to read, may not be what my neighbor allows. Whose parental rights are more important? Please keep government out of our business. Vote against SB 13.

Rebecca Cummings

Parent/ Texan/ Library Lover

Richardson, TX

I am opposed to this bill and encourage you to vote no. This bill gives all the power the power to an appointed committee to a few political parents to select what library books are allowed to be purchased for entire districts instead of certified librarians. A few non-elected, non-certified people should NOT get to choose which books ALL students have access to. I would like my district to focus on improving math and reading scores instead of worrying about monitoring and controlling library books. Also, TX already passed HB 900- that school districts are still working to implement. We don't need another one. Leave our libraries alone and let parents decide if a book isn't right for their kid. Please vote no on SB 13. Thank you.

Linda Zeccola, RN

Self. Nurse

Austin, TX

I vehemently oppose allowing extremist parents to dictate the contents of public school libraries. If they don't like the books don't check them out or send your child to a different school. Don't push your personal agenda on all the other students

Sydney Dunlap

Self

Spring, TX

I'm a Texas parent, former teacher, and taxpayer, and I oppose this bill and urge you to do the same. This bill claims to uphold the rights of parents regarding their children's reading material but in fact it strips away individual parental rights and instead hands it over to un-elected, "advisory councils" in each district.

The bill has no requirement that advisory council members have any background in (or content knowledge of) education, children's literature, or library science. Nor would they all have to have children who attend school in the district.

Allowing for the removal of books that simply contain "indecent" or "profane" content goes further than many current book bans and would seem to allow a book to be removed for as little as a single swear word. There is no requirement in SB13 that books are to be considered as a whole.

This bill refers to "community values" multiple times without defining this term or giving any guidance about how an advisory council could even begin to come to a thoughtful, accurate determination of what their community's values are.

Jason Peck

Self

Austin, TX

This bill introduces new overly-broad categories of prohibited books and placing purchasing and reconsideration oversight into the hands of a few politically appointed community member volunteers. Do let this bill approve out of committee. Texas already passed HB 900- a school library bill- that school districts are still working to figure out and implement- so we don't need another one.

Kathy Holmes

self - retired teacher

CARROLLTON, TX

As a retired public and private school teacher, as a lifetime learner and reader, as a mother of two, as a grandmother of five, and as a born-in-Texas citizen, I ask you to oppose this bill. In seventy years, I have never encountered a librarian who was not highly educated in library science and literature, and who was not completely dedicated to the task of recommending and securing developmentally appropriate reading materials for students/patrons. Turning over the responsibility of choosing that literature and restricting literature to a few politically-appointed parents deprives all other educators, parents, grandparents, students, and readers of all ages and abilities to exercise their Constitutionally guaranteed right to choose. There are many other problems that need to be addressed in our schools, both public and private. Teachers (and students) are still working hard to recover from the teaching/learning loss during the Covid pandemic. A large percentage of our young people are depressed and subject to in-person and online bullying. Parents are struggling to provide for their children physically and emotionally. Vote NO if SB 13 comes to a vote. We don't need another bill that further restricts access to reading materials. Reading scores are already down; why on earth would we need a bill that restricts and discourages reading?

Marcia Connolly

self

Georgetown, TX

I respectfully submit my full support of school librarians' ability to select books for their libraries without the extreme oversight of parents and advisory councils. Librarians are professionals with extensive education in library science entrusted by the school districts to judicially manage their libraries' contents.

Maya Medrano

self - artist

Austin, TX

Children are human beings who have the right to freedom of speech, freedom to learn and to learn to think critically for themselves.

Dale Ann Price

Self

Bullard, TX

I support this bill wholeheartedly.

David Price

Self

Bullard, TX

I support this bill.

Hannah Davis
Self
Georgetown, TX
Vote no.

Rebecca Morgan, Mrs
Self/retired educator
Bullard, TX

Public school districts need to give parents access to school libraries as to the types of materials exposed to our children.

Karen Currie
Self, School Librarian
Austin, TX
Vote NO

Gary Chesshir
Self
Troup, TX

I support SB 13. Don't let the liberal librarians control materials for children that are opposed to values of the community!!

James Thurow, Dr.
Self/ retired DO
Bullard, TX

Parental rights should always be challenged when they are denied by public education that is being supported with my tax money. Parents should always have a day as to the materials exposed to their children.

Kate Jensen, Ms
self (librarian)
College Station, TX

Dear Representative Talarico,

I am Kate Jensen, a mother of public school children, and a Texas school librarian. I am contacting you to share my concerns about SB 13 which will be considered by the House Public Education Committee today.

SB 13 requires Texas school boards to approve all library materials before an order may be placed. Library orders must be posted for public comment for 30 days before approval. And school districts must establish Local School Library Advisory Councils, comprised of at least five parents appointed by school board members.

The political appointees on the Council will determine which library books are appropriate for each grade and recommend the removal of any books deemed to be harmful or inconsistent with community values. They also have the final say in whether or not a book should remain in the school library collection.

School districts purchase hundreds, if not thousands, of library materials and orders are placed several times throughout the school year. For example, one large Texas school district placed 605 library orders from September - February, a total of 60,509 new books.

How will a small council manage to review those purchase orders in a timely manner?

Adding multiple levels of review to the purchasing process creates significant barriers to a district's ability to purchase essential library materials and will negatively impact student learning.

Please do not limit our school libraries' ability to support literacy and engage students in reading.

Thank you,
KJ

Allison Thompson

Self

Pflugerville, TX

My name is Allison Thompson, retiree, living in Pflugerville, Texas. My adult son is a graduate of public schools in Austin ISD and I write to oppose SB 13. My son grew up in a loving church environment where he knew he was normal and accepted just the way he is. My son is a gay man and I am so proud of him. We have many LGBTQ+ friends and family members and are also proud to have many people of color as we count as friends and family. It is very important for young people to see themselves reflected in our culture in a positive way. I believe banning books in our school libraries is the exact opposite of what we should be doing in order for young people to develop positive self esteem and to be able to reach their full potential as productive citizens and leaders in our society. I believe it is truly up to parents and not the state to raise their children and it is up to the parents and not the state to say what books, movies, video games and other societal influences are appropriate for their children. Quite frankly, I do not trust this current legislature to make those decisions for the children in my life. If this were truly about parental rights, these decisions would be up to the parents. But this seems to be a lot more about state control. I also trust librarians and educators who are trained in child developmental processes and stages to know what is best for children as they discover their own identities, strengths and gifts. My son was able to read books that reflected who he is as a person and he is a fine upstanding member of society who votes in every single election. I stand in strong opposition to this bill. Thank you for your time in reading my comments.

Melody Allen

self - Logistics Manager

Waxahachie, TX

I strongly support SB 13. As a concerned citizen, I believe this legislation is a necessary and meaningful enhancement to existing law, ensuring transparency, accountability, and parental involvement in public school library materials.

SB 13 strengthens the law by:

?? Clarifying content standards to ensure that materials available to students align with age-appropriate educational values.

?? Requiring consistent review procedures so that school districts follow a clear and fair process for evaluating materials.

?? Ensuring accountability and transparency by making library records and cataloging systems accessible to parents and communities.

?? Giving parents a voice through local school library advisory councils, empowering them to engage in their child's educational environment.

This legislation is not about limiting knowledge, but rather about ensuring responsible access to materials that contribute positively to students' education and development. SB 13 strikes a balance—protecting children while preserving academic freedom and intellectual growth in a way that reflects the values of Texas families.

I urge the committee to pass SB 13, reinforcing the rights of parents and communities in shaping the educational environment of our children. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Lauren Ehrlich

Self/ teacher

Weatherford, TX

As a lifelong Texan and public school parent & teacher, I oppose SB 13. Parents already have the right to choose what their kids read in school. Senate Bill 13 is an attack on truth, freedom, and the right of every child to see themselves in the books they read. SB 13 empowers political appointees and bad actors to decide what our kids can and can't read. It's censorship, targeting LGBTQIA+ youth and communities of color under the guise of "parental control."

Librarians and educators shouldn't be forced to act as censorship police. They should be trusted to guide students, not having to risk their careers for offering honest, inclusive learning.

Lawmakers pushing SB 13 are policing identity, targeting families, and fueling a culture war.

If politicians actually cared about public education, they would focus on our schools and raising teacher pay, not pushing fear and censorship by banning books.

Please oppose SB 13. Parents already have control over what their children read. Books can be a lifeline for children who might feel alone in their experiences and working through their identity or other issues.

Karma Chavez, Dr

Self

Austin, TX

This is a very bad idea. It is a violation of student freedom to learn and it places ideological litmus tests on students.

Tina Chambless

Self

Flint, TX

This Bill needs to pass to keep our libraries safe for our children and grandchildren.

Caroline Mithoff

Self

Austin, TX

Book bans are un-American. They are very North Korean and Nazi Germany. Librarians and schools need to have the power to place books about all subjects and from all perspectives on their shelves. No one is forcing kids to read anything. Taking away books is exclusionary and the the same as silencing voices. Vote no on SB 13.

Jacquelin Isser

self, school librarian

Cedar Park, TX

I am writing to you in regards to SB13, which would require that each public school create a library advisory council and that school districts must then consider the recommendations of said council before adding or removing library materials from the school library catalog. While on its face, this policy seems harmless, but it would undermine certified school librarians as well as greatly slow down the process of adding and removing library materials. As you probably know, every certified librarian holds a master's degree, has taken specialized masters classes in school librarianship, was previously a classroom teacher, and has passed a state certification exam. In addition, every librarian lives either in or near the community he or she serves and knows that community well. I realize that there have been some renegade librarians, but please do not break trust with the rest of us because of the poor decisions of a few.

If you yourself or anyone in your family is a reader, you know how exciting it is to get ahold of a newly released book. If students have to wait for months to get the books they want, their interest may fade. I would hate to see that happen, as would my fellow librarians. We want to encourage students to be excited and enthusiastic about the books they read, which means it's up to us to make sure we procure them in a timely manner. My goal is always to enhance my students' education and to support them and their fabulous teachers in their work.

I do NOT want to put inappropriate or pornographic books in front of my students. At least once a month, one of my 8th graders will ask me to purchase a book that is not appropriate for our younger readers. When I point this out to them, they usually grin and say, "oh, right." They understand! The rule of thumb that librarians usually follow is that we purchase books that have a protagonist that is of similar age to your student population. Thus, most of my books are about kids aged 10-14. This isn't always the case, as we definitely have copies of Little Women and Little House on the Prairie, and those books are about characters both older and younger than my students.

Right now, I am in the process of selecting books for removal. To start this process, I run reports to find out which books have not been checked out in the past 4-5 years. I then look at each book individually to decide whether or not to keep it. Often, these are books that are worn out and in bad condition, so the choice is easy. Other times, the books are outdated and no longer popular with students. Weeding is an important task that I do every year so that space is made for the new books we purchase. If SB13 passes and goes into effect, it is going to slow down the work that is done in each library. My school district has 45 schools. If our board of trustees is required to review every list of books we want to purchase or weed, that is going to be very time consuming for them. Thank you for your consideration.

Kristi Ellis
Self
Georgetown, TX
Vote no

Grant King
Self
Austin, TX
NO!

Wendy Woodland
Texas Library Association
Austin, TX

The Texas Library Association's membership includes more than 5,000 academic, K-12 school, public and special librarians from across the state of Texas.

Sec. 33.021 Library Standards

The Texas State Library and Archives Commission passed mandatory collection development standards as required by HB 900 in January 2024 and districts spent the year updating their policies and procedures to comply with those new standards. Revising the standards yet again, so soon after they were implemented, will cause additional confusion and impact districts' ability to purchase materials for their school libraries.

Additionally, the definitions of indecent content and profane content, which are based on FCC broadcast standards, are vague and subject to interpretation when applied to written materials.

Sec. 33.025 Local School Library Advisory Council

Local School Library Advisory Councils add an overly complicated layer of bureaucracy to library purchasing, policy development, and the reconsideration process. How will districts ensure that the council does represent the entire community they serve, not just those who have the time and resources to volunteer to serve?

Sec. 33.026 Acquisition of Library Materials

School districts purchase hundreds, if not thousands, of library materials every year, with purchases being made multiple times throughout the year. For example, a suburban district serving more than 38,000 students on 52 campuses typically orders around 35,000 new books during the school year.

The multi-layered review process required by SB 13 will not only extend the purchasing timeline but negatively impact students who are waiting on popular book releases or invaluable books for research.

Section 33.027 Challenge or Appeal Regarding Library Materials, Local School Library Advisory Council Recommendations

In addition to centralizing the reconsideration process at the district level rather than allowing the campus to address concerns about library materials, with the school board being a source for appeal, SB 13 does not require that the material be considered as a whole, not just small paragraphs taken out of context, which goes against legal precedence.

In conclusion, adding multiple levels of review to the purchasing process creates significant barriers to a district's ability to purchase essential library materials and will negatively impact student learning.

Laura Pressley
Self
Copperas Cove, TX

I strongly support this bill. Please pass it out of committee unanimously. Thank you.

Diane Edwards
Self
San Antonio, TX

It is our right as a community to present the innocence of our children and stop the sexualization of our children and youth. Not that long ago Playboy had to be delivered in brown wrapper and it was out of reach of minors. The video rental stores had secret "back rooms" for those types of movies and now we have it in books that our 2nd-3rd graders can read and see drawings of. We are grooming a generation of overly sexual people who could add to our existing problem of teen pregnancies and future predators. For the sake of our communities these types of materials must be removed from the libraries, both physical and digital books and the right of parents to see what is actually accessible. When did this become acceptable in any society?

Jennifer Kost, Mrs.
self (stay at home mom, volunteer in schools)
Austin, TX

Dear Chairman Buckley and members of the Committee,

While I, too, want children to read wholesome books with moral, educational, and literary value, even more than that, I want children to read books. Reading books sheerly for enjoyment builds the habits and skills to read books that challenge and edify.

I don't enjoy fart jokes, but joke books are a popular genre that get kids in the habit of reading, enjoying reading, thinking about wordplay, and turning to books for ideas. They also help children (and adults) practice social interactions, build connections through shared laughter, and give them opportunities to learn to gauge and read their audience (fart jokes for friends, not parents, who tend to prefer plays on words).

SB 13 goes too far in its efforts to ensure no one is offended, and provides consequences that are far too extreme.

The existing prohibition on "harmful material" is sufficient. There is not need to add poorly defined "indecent content" nor "profane content" prohibitions.

Sections 33.025 requiring "Local School Library Advisory Councils," 33.026 governing the "Acquisition of Library Materials," and 33.027 governing the "Challenge or Appeal" process are not practical (nor would the advisory councils be representative of the community) and will have unintended consequences on the availability of books for students. Districts have policies in place regarding the acquisition and review of library materials already. If those systems are inadequate, parents can work with their children's schools/librarians in addition to bringing concerns to their local school boards.

Please vote no on SB 13.

Barbara Woodroof
SELF Retired
Gunter, TX

The library should be where a child should go to obtain information that is age appropriate. The materials and content should be such that the child has access to age appropriate information. Certain information that parents need to discuss with their children should not be available for a child view without parental consent. This bill needs to be heard and passed out of committee to insure that we are monitoring library materials that the parents feel appropriate for their child.

Jeff Sharp
self
Dripping Springs, TX

Please vote NO on this bill! Advisory councils should not dictate what materials are placed in a public school library.

Sherry Eller

Self

Temple, TX

I support SB 13. Please pass this bill quickly out of committee. Protect our children from sexually explicit, vulgar, and age-inappropriate materials in school libraries. This is an important bill that clarifies standards and puts into place procedures for parental involvement and oversight for book selection. Please protect our Texas children!

Lisa Hill

Self

Austin, TX

PLEASE VOTE NO ON THIS BILL! I urge lawmakers to vote against any legislation, including SB13, that implements arduous processes for purchasing books for school libraries and removes books from schools based on overly broad content designations. I ask you to allow our kids to read freely, and to enjoy the benefits of good libraries and literacy instruction. SB 13 goes against Freedom of Speech, a cornerstone of our constitution and democracy.

Angelique Gonzalez-Page

self

Austin, TX

My name is Angelique Gonzalez-Page and I am a no for SB13. I can see lawmakers' good intentions but this bill in its current format puts a lot of the parental responsibility on to the school districts. In addition, it increases the administrative burden for staff that have dedicated their careers and lives to helping children. I feel that teachers, librarians, administrators and associated staff have to endure a an ever increasing administrative cost instead of spending that time teaching. Also, this bill will be expensive for school districts with no plan in place to pay for the time and effort required to make this law work. My experience is that school districts already have a system in place for all kinds of complaints including those books parents deem inappropriate. So, I do not see the benefit for children, parents or school districts by making this process a law instead of tweaking the formal complaint process laid out in the Parental Handbook provide by school districts. Also, parent's have full access to all the books in a public school library. Most have an online system for parents to peruse and check out books. They can go in person to the library and do the same as long as they have passed a background check. As a busy parent, I hate wasting my time on processes that do not benefit me, my children or my community. This law is just another hoop for citizens to jump through because a few people are scared of the ideas located in books. Let's not reinvent the wheel. Let's work together instead.

Full disclosure, I love the library and grew up in the library. Since before I could remember, my parent's both worked jobs that required them to be at work early. They would drop me off at school before it was even open. I remember waiting patiently outside on cold winter mornings. When the custodian would unlock the doors, I would trek to the school library where it was toasty warm. I never read a book as a child in my school library that I would deem offensive now as a parent. Unless, you are including views of antiquated gender roles. Some books don't age well. Currently, I volunteer at my children's elementary school library. My job consists of shelving books, help checking in and out books, and helping kids find the books they need. I get to share my love of the library with kids who want to learn and are excited about books. Every once in a while, I get a request that surprises me. Yesterday, a 5th grader asked if we had the book, 1984, in our library. I replied that book was not and that it was a bit heavy for elementary school. This kid's reading level is insanely beyond his young years. He likes to read books that his father recommends and they discuss it together. This is great parenting.

Overall, parents don't need the State of Texas telling us that they know what's best for our children. That's our job. Let us do our job. Or we might not be so far removed from 1984 and its views on totalitarianism than we think.

Katelyn Patterson
self/librarian
austin, TX

I am asking you to vote AGAINST SB13. Although I am a librarian, I am submitting this as a parent and on my own time. This bill is simply unnecessary. Librarians are trained in collection development to represent a wide array of voices and experiences. Caregivers already can view what their children are accessing in their school libraries and have to sign waivers that allow them to read books in class. If caregivers want to restrict what their children have access to, they are already able to do so. They shouldn't be allowed to make decisions on behalf of other caregivers which is what these advisory boards would do. If caregivers want to know what their children are reading, I would encourage caregivers to speak to their children rather than restricting everyone else's access. Let caregivers do their job. Let librarians and educators do theirs.

Ana Luisa Salas-Porras
SELF
Austin, TX

I urge the committee to vote NO. This is another example of a solution looking for a problem. Our libraries are currently run by competent librarians who make book selections based on the needs of their schools and their own expertise and training. There are currently systems in place for parents to exercise their "parental rights". This has always existed. School libraries are run by qualified professionals. Kids can come to the library and find books that are inspirational, educational and, many, about people who reflect the school's population. There is NO need for extremist legislators to pass laws to change a system that is fair for the kids. Let parents exercise their current rights to challenge a library selection. Stop this overreach in public schools. And, now that you passed vouchers, shouldn't private schools be subjected to the same scrutiny? VOTE NO!

Sharon Guthrie, Ms.
Self
Tyler, TX

Please support SB 13. Children should not have access to unsuitable content, and parents have every right to view and read what is offered in the school libraries.

Taylor Humphries
self, church intern
Haslet, TX

I am in support of SB 13 and ask for you to vote yes - to strengthen parental control by ensuring transparency in library material selection and giving parents the FINAL SAY.

I began reading books a lot starting in 7th grade, and once in high school, I could read a 400 page book in about 3 days. I spent a lot of time reading books and 99% of the books I read were checked out of a library. I testify that books that contain sexually explicit content are HARMFUL to the development of a child. These books shaped my world view and were my way of escape from the stress of life. After reading and being exposed to this type of content, it became "normal", and I thought it was normal for everyone else. IT IS NOT NORMAL.

I got radically saved by Jesus, the Son of God, who SET ME FREE from porn addiction, lust, and sexual perversion that came into my life. One of the major ways was through books! PARENTS SHOULD HAVE THE FINAL SAY IN DECISIONS THAT IMPACT THEIR CHILD'S LIFE.

Vote in favor of SB 13

Lauren Chiong
Self
FT WORTH, TX

I am AGAINST SB 13. This kind of censorship will be very harmful to schools and library. Thank you for considering my views.

Jennifer White
Self
ROUND ROCK, TX

I encourage all of you to vote YES for SB13. We need to strengthen this bill and keep it on track for what it was meant to be! We want and need clarifying content standards, requirements for consistent review procedures, we want to ensure accountability and transparentness and give all of us parents a voice!!!

Mike Smith
Self
Jacksonville, TX

SUPPORT SB 13: ZERO Amendments; vote YES on each reading -- GET SB 13 to the Governor's desk for signature. You do NOT want to be among the Republican Primary election candidates viewed as tolerating the sexualization of children. Texas Republican voters are watching your voting record.

Davonne Lewis
Self
Austin, TX

Please vote NO!

Amy Bridges
Self
Longview, TX

Please support SB 13. Protecting our children and supporting our parents should be of utmost importance to the State of Texas. The bill will help accomplish both of those objectives.

Buff Strickland
Self
Austin, TX

SB 13 casts a wide net that will catch books they are innocent and beloved by children. The problem with our youth today is not that they are reading too much. It's that they are online getting their share of filth. The last severe bill banning books was so overly complicated to enact that books shelves in some schools are empty! We're harming Texas school children in an attempt to keep age-inappropriate material away from them. I urge you to vote against SB13

Reagan Brendle
RB
New Braunfels, TX

As a parent, I strongly oppose this bill because it would give a few politically appointed parents decision making power over the selection of books that children in an entire community have access to. In addition, Texas already passed HB 900, that school districts are still trying to implement.

Cynthia Jaimes
Self
Grand Prairie, TX

As a Texan and library supporter, I am vehemently against SB 13. It would give politically appointed parents decision making power over what books all students in a community have access to. Please focus on educating children instead of stripping them of access to critical books.

Tracy Cornelius
self / homemaker
Austin, TX

I oppose this bill. The described purpose of this bill is to clarify parental rights with respect to school libraries. If this legislation passes, a select few parents' rights will be prioritized over other parents. We should be concerned about all parents' rights, and this bill does not accomplish that goal. A school library should be a place where students can find a variety of resources that reflect the views and opinions of a wide range of people in the community. Everyone should be able to find materials that reflect his or her experiences, identity, and beliefs. One parent's beliefs (or a subgroup of parents) should not control access for all students in public schools.

I am also concerned that this bill will slow down the process for school libraries to acquire new books (since school boards will have to take over responsibilities previously handled by school librarians). I do not want to slow down the acquisition of library materials for students at a time when they are still making up for the learning losses from the pandemic.

Thank you giving consideration to my input.

Deidra Miniard, Dr.
Self; Researcher
Austin, TX

I strongly oppose this government overreach into school libraries which creates an unsustainable burden on educators under the false pretense of protecting children. It's a thinly veiled attempt to remove books that feature LGBTQ+ characters, discuss racial injustice, or address gender issues. Vague definitions of "indecent" and "profane" content provide cover for targeting materials that simply acknowledge the existence of marginalized communities or address uncomfortable historical truths. Recent book challenges across TX overwhelmingly targeted books with LGBTQ+ themes or discussions of racism.

School libraries already have established policies and professional librarians trained to select age-appropriate materials. This bill undermines their expertise by creating "local school library advisory councils" made up of political appointees - where the majority must be non-employees who lack qualifications in education or library science.

The immediate removal requirement for any challenged materials is particularly alarming (Section 33.027g). This guilty-until-proven-innocent approach creates a pathway for a small number of individuals to effectively empty library shelves through coordinated challenges. The acquisition process is equally troubling. Requiring full board approval for all materials would create such a bureaucratic bottleneck that many libraries would simply stop acquiring new books. Responding to unlimited challenges would overwhelm already limited resources. The financial burden on already underfunded districts would be enormous.

The bill fails to differentiate between elementary, middle, and high school libraries. This treats youth from 6 to 16 as having identical maturity and developmental needs. High school students preparing for college-level work face significant educational disadvantages if they cannot access certain literary classics or historical works that might contain "indecent" or "profane" content (according to the bill's overly broad definitions). Would books often assigned in AP courses- Anne Frank or To Kill A Mockingbird- be banned?

Most concerning is the clear intent to chill speech and expression. The severe consequences for librarians who might inadvertently violate these vague standards will lead to extreme self-censorship. Rather than risk their careers, librarians will simply avoid acquiring potentially controversial but educationally valuable materials. But isn't that your goal?

The purpose of school libraries is to provide students with diverse perspectives and materials that challenge them to think critically. Allowing a small group of partisan individuals to dictate what materials students can and can't access undermines the purpose of education. I urge you to reject this government intrusion into our schools and instead trust the judgment of educators, librarians, and parents who know their individual children's needs best. I'll also point out that book ban supporters just lost elections in TX.

Carlson Sharpless
Self (IT Specialist)
Dallas, TX

I strongly opposed this bill. This bill will destroy school libraries by creating burdensome review processes that will clear out existing collections and halt future purchases, all based on the whims of unpleasable and bad-faith political appointees.

In a time like today, access to a variety of books is more important than ever to nurture student's reading skills and curiosity. My school librarians and teachers were able to inspire a lifelong passion for reading in me because they were able to give me access to books that were above my current grade level and that I was interested in reading. Despite being age-appropriate, many of these books would almost certainly be banned under this law because they offend "parental sensibilities".

Most of the people pushing these policies at the local level were soundly defeated in Saturday's elections. This bill is not popular, and it would be destructive to the learning environment at our schools.

Stacey Hirt
self
Tyler, TX

I am in support of SB 13. With it's passing it would be adding strength to the 88th Legislation's passing of HB 900. As a parent of public school children, I would like to stay informed about the content within the walls of my children's school library. This includes the creation of local school library advisory councils. Thank you.

William Milner, Dr.
WNM Emergency Medicine, PLLC
West Lake Hills, TX, TX

Schools cannot and should not have explicit, vulgar or other harmful materials in their libraries. I have a 12-year-old daughter, and the majority of my property tax goes into her public school district Eanes ISD (and other school districts through the Robin Hood program). Keep the filth out of our children's library!! I am appalled that it got in there in the first place! Pass SB13!

Francine Erickson
self
Georgetown, TX

Loud and powerful individuals in and outside of education believe in sexualizing children and destroying their innocence. I would like to support SB 13, but for the following reasons it lacks accountability and reality of its intent from the beginning of the bill.

1. Page two “(3) "Library material"...The term does not include instructional material, as defined by Section 31.002, or materials procured for the TexShare “
2. Page seven “(3) if feasible, joint use agreements or strategies for collaboration between the school district and local public libraries and community organizations; (4) the removal of any library materials that the council determines to be:(A) harmful material or material containing indecent content or profane content; ...”

Why have a development policy and include an exemption for TexShare? Currently a middle school librarian in the Georgetown ISD allows and has a link to Southwestern University. Any book, containing any content there would be available to a student as young as 11. In another example public libraries have been fighting their communities from removing sexually explicit out of reach of elementary aged children. Why would they be inclined to work with school districts to remove harmful materials from access?

The above language is a loophole for sexualization of children in which we intend to codify.

On page five of the bill is the following. “(a) A school district or open-enrollment charter school shall adopt procedures that provide for a parent of a child enrolled in the district or school to:(1) access the catalog of available library materials at each school library in the district or school;”

Why are we eliminating access to the taxpayer? We are under tremendous taxation and we should be able to see every book bought or brought into our schools for instructional materials or library materials. We pay for Texas education, and there should be transparency. The law should reflect that and not codify hiding content.

Lastly, there is no teeth in this bill. If they sexualize children there is no legal or civil penalty.

I cannot support this bill. I believe the intent is there, but those that seek to sexualize children are determined to harm our most innocent. Our laws to protect children must rise above community standards of sexualizing and normalizing the sexualization of children.

Nisha Abraham
Self
Austin, TX

Dear Committee,

I am writing today as your constituent to stand in opposition to Senate Bill 13 in Texas. SB13 not only infringes on my rights as a taxpayer, but it is also an overreach of governmental power. It takes away individual freedoms from parents, students, community members, and school board trustees to review and regulate school library materials and instead gives the authority to a small group of politically appointed School Library Advisory Council members.

These members would likely not be trained library professionals or teachers who are qualified to make library curation decisions. In fact, SB13 does not even require all council members to have children enrolled in the public school system the committee allegedly represents. "Library curation and collection development decisions should be left to trained librarians with input from a variety of local stakeholders.

Under SB13, School Library Advisory Councils would have the power to remove library materials from school libraries that are inconsistent with “community values.” The values of certain community members should not be prioritized above others. For these reasons, I ask that you keep politics out of our schools by strongly opposing SB13 in Texas.

Nisha Abraham

Kevin Chen

Self

Austin, TX

I am in opposition to SB13 because it removes access to vital information and perspectives for children -- especially those growing up in unsafe or marginalized environments -- and infringes on the liberty of families to decide what is appropriate for their children.

Many days of my formative years were spent lost in fantasy worlds and vast universes in the public libraries and bookstores in my area. Books are and have always been a way for me to seek information: about myself, about the problems I face in the world, about ways of being that are otherwise unimaginable. Whether through nonfiction offering direct answers or fiction revealing unfamiliar perspectives, I have yet to find a book that has not taught me something valuable about this complex world we live in.

SB13, as written, would enable the removal of books based on vague, ideological standards -- books that might explore LGBTQ+ identities, racial histories, or mental health. This bill doesn't protect children. It shields them from complexity, from empathy, and from the freedom to explore their own identities and values. It imposes a narrower view of the world onto all children, limiting their intellectual freedom and right to self-discovery.

By limiting access to diverse stories, we don't create safer schools -- we create smaller minds. We limit imagination, and we deny children the chance to grow into thoughtful, informed citizens. I believe that it is vital to our future as a society that we challenge young minds by exposing them to new ideas at a pace that they and their families find appropriate.

Texan families deserve the freedom to decide how their children engage with literature. Let's trust them, not limit them. Please vote no on SB13 and stand for intellectual freedom, family rights, and the futures of all Texas children.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Bethany Counts

Self

Tyler, TX

Vote yes on SB 13 we need to protect our children from this vulgar material.

Sheri Allen, Cantor
Makom Shelanu Congregation
Fort Worth, TX

I appeal to you as a mother of an adult transgender son and the Cantor (Jewish clergy) of Makom Shelanu Congregation in Ft. Worth, to oppose SB 13.

In imposing stringent requirements regarding what materials might be allowed in a public school library, and creating a school library advisory council to make those decisions, SB13 is a blatant attempt to erase LGBTQ+ content from the shelves. Every child deserves access to stories that reflect their own lived experience, and helps them to feel seen, valued, safe, and celebrated. Often, books are the first time that students see themselves represented in the media. Children of all ages, races, ethnicities, gender identities and sexual orientations should have, and need access to books and stories that teach understanding, compassion, and appreciation for each other's differences. Isn't that one of the most important lessons a child can learn at school? Erasing LGBTQ+ students from books and classrooms sends a message that these students don't belong in their own schools or in their own state.

Librarians and educators shouldn't be forced to act as censorship police. They should be trusted to guide students and not have to risk their careers by offering honest, inclusive learning. We have trusted them to do this for years. What has changed?

My son will no longer come back to Texas - where he was raised - because he no longer feels comfortable or safe here. As a mother, this is devastating. SB 13 is only one of a slew of damaging anti-trans bills that I have had to speak out against during this legislative session, and I'm hoping that they will all be defeated. For the good of all students in Texas, and the people who love them, I ask you to vote "no" on SB13.

Laura Hernandez-Ehrisman, Dr.
self
Austin, TX

As a Texas parent and educator, I strongly urge lawmakers to vote against SB13. This bill would create a very difficult process for purchasing books for school libraries, and removes books from schools based on overbroad content designations. Many measures included in the bill have already been adopted by Texas school districts, and the harms they have caused to Texas students are real and documented. If SB13 were to be adopted statewide, it is fair to assume those negative results would spread across Texas. I ask you to allow our kids to read freely, and to enjoy the benefits of good libraries and literacy instruction.

Susan Kelly
Self; Retired Journalist
Austin, TX

I oppose SB 13 on the grounds that it is the school librarian's job under the direction of a school principal to select material for school libraries. Please vote NO on SB 13.
Thank you.

Deborah Hall
Self/retired teacher librarian
Houston, TX

This is a totally unnecessary oversight on the part of the State of Texas. Mr. Paxton is uninformed about libraries, librarians, and schools. Parents already have the rights to restrict their children's reading selections if they choose to do so. This bill would allow some parents to dictate the reading selections of all children in a school. Librarians and teachers are better judges of what is appropriate for students in their schools and communities than most parents based on their education in reading and literacy. Parents have authority over their own children but should not be able to dictate the reading selections of all children.

Texas Lamar

Self

Austin, TX

AGAINST. The librarians I know are some of the smartest kindest people I have ever met. Making laws like these that micromanage them is not only harmful to the LGBTQ+ community and POC in general, but is also disrespectful to people who have received COLLEGE DEGREES on how to run a library. Telling them some small minded parent knows better than them about their library and books is just as asinine as saying a politician knows more about a woman's body than her own doctor.

Elva Mendoza

Self; Legislative Communications Associate

Austin, TX

I strongly oppose SB 13. As a mother of three children under 18, I am of course, like the bill author, concerned about children having access to inappropriate content. However, I trust trained librarians to determine the appropriateness of books in school libraries, not untrained parents who may have extreme political beliefs. Texans would be better served by a bill to facilitate the education of parents about the dangers of inappropriate content on social media. Please reject this bill. Thank you.

Tracy Fisher

Self

COPPELL, TX

Stop the overreach on our public school libraries. Public School Board elections are annual, and THAT provides public school oversight of all things. Public school parents already have the right to see library contents and can demand that their children not check out a book or ANY books. Charters don't even have libraries. Are you doing this to private schools? This is a LOCAL control issue, not a STATE control issue. Parents aren't worried about this. They want their children to have libraries to learn and love reading! If reading is a problem, taking away books is not the solution. Please work on passing bills that will help all Texans and not on bills like this that feed culture wars. You were elected to represent and trust your constituents. This bill will stop the future purchases of books in our libraries. This bill is unnecessary and will impact anyone voting for it during the midterm elections. Texans are TIRED of this rhetoric.

Candace Tackel

Self

Point, TX

Hello, Chairman and Committee Members, I am Candace Tackel, Representing myself as a proud mother of two young, impressionable children. I write today to express my strong support for SB13.

As a parent, my deepest responsibility is to protect and guide my children — to ensure they grow up in an environment that nurtures their well-being, shapes their values, and prepares them for a responsible future. Our laws play a critical role in setting the tone for the kind of world they will inherit. SB13 is not just a piece of legislation; it is a commitment to safeguarding the innocence, safety, and development of the next generation.

Children absorb everything they see and hear. They look to the adults around them — parents, teachers, leaders — and to the laws we uphold to understand what is right, what is valued, and what is acceptable. Passing SB13 sends a clear message that we prioritize their welfare and that we, as a society, are willing to stand up for what is best for them.

As a mother, I want my children to grow up knowing that their leaders took action when it mattered — that we didn't look the other way or dismiss concerns about the impacts of harmful influences or unsafe environments. Supporting SB13 is supporting families like mine, who are working hard every day to raise thoughtful, compassionate, and resilient kids.

I urge you to vote yes on SB13. Let's show our children that we are committed to their futures and that we, as a community, stand together to protect what matters most.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Kim Middleton

self

Lubbock, TX

I am asking you to support SB 13. Our family supports the advancement and passing of SB 13. This bill matters to us because of the high standards it defines. We need to have accountability with our educational system and add parents into the conversations, listening to them. It really bothers us that book content is not highly focused in our libraries. It only is okay until your child comes home with an inappropriate book. Then the long, drawn out fight to get a book removed because it is so inappropriate, not even allowed in the prison system libraries. SB 13 helps with accountability and safeguards for our children. Please help move SB 13 out of committee and onto the House floor for a vote. We need you to consider SB13 and help out our future generations.

Charley Rejsek

Book People, Inc.

Austin, TX

Honorable members of the House Public Education Committee,

I am a native Texan, who has been a bookseller for 25+ years, concerned with the ongoing attacks on public education and the First Amendment in our state, and I want you to let SB 13 die in committee.

SB 13 creates two new and unconstitutional categories for censorship: vaguely defined “patently offensive” content, without constitutional safeguards; and material containing profanity, again without constitutional safeguards.

It will also make it harder for school libraries to acquire any books at all, regardless of content, by inserting government bureaucracy into the book acquisition process.

We should be making it easier for Texas children to get books, not harder. We should be empowering local schools, parents, and communities to make their own decisions about books, not giving that power to the state government. Mandating these committees will worsen reading outcomes for Texas students by creating an expensive and unnecessary process.

Please vote no on SB 13. This bill should not leave committee

Tiffany Matthews

self

Austin, TX

I am adamantly opposed to this bill. SB 13 would actively harm students, particularly those who are already most vulnerable to bullying, isolation, and erasure. Books can be a lifeline for children who might feel alone in their experiences and working through their identity or other issues. Students deserve: Access to books that reflect who they are, Exposure to diverse perspectives and real-world ideas, The support of qualified educators and librarians, not censorship from politically driven school boards.

D'rinda Randall

Self

Fort Worth, TX

I strongly support SB 13 because it establishes clear systems and processes to protect children from exposure to sexually explicit material in Texas public schools. It's deeply troubling that we even need legislation to assert what should be a given—that parents, not bureaucrats/lobbyists or those with ill-intent have the right to decide what content is appropriate for their children. This bill ensures that innocence is guarded, and that our schools remain places of learning, not indoctrination. Parents deserve a voice, and SB 13 gives them one.

Edward Kandler
self/retired
Jarrell, TX

Unfortunately society has gotten so bad that we need this bill to emphasize what used to be common Knowledge & common Sense. What a shame!

Sue Evenwel
Myself
Mt Pleasant, TX

SB 13 needs to be passed to clean the bill up to protect children from sexually graphic materials in their school libraries. It will clarify content standards so schools will no longer be concerned about gray areas. It will require consistent review procedures so schools don't have to reinvent the wheel. It provides transparency for the community and parents. It is time we get this done in Texas.

Kaitlen Eckmann
Self
Galveston, TX

Oppose. This bill takes the power to choose books out of the hands of parents, teachers, librarians, and students and places it with a small group who likely will not have the training to make informed choices on library curation. They don't even all have to have children enrolled in the school system they're supposedly representing. Similar policies taken by individual ISDs have already severely curtailed students' access to books and gutted curriculums. This bill will not protect Texan students - it will only harm them.

Karen Santhanam
Self
Cedar Park, TX

I oppose SB 13, the school library bill that has the potential to devastate our public school libraries by introducing new overly-broad categories of prohibited books and placing purchasing and reconsideration oversight into the hands of a few politically appointed community member volunteers. It is a bad bill. Do not let it advance!

Ronald Wills
Self, Retired
McKinney, TX

I live in McKinney, Tx and am aware of pornographic literature being available to students in some Collin County schools. Administrators and school board members in these schools are aware of the problem yet do nothing to remove this objectionable literature. We need state law which will force school administrators to remove pornographic materials from school libraries and be kept away from young school children.

Ruth Pledger, Attorney
Self
Mason, TX

I am for our library's getting rid of all porn material and for parents to have access to what their children are reading in the library. God bless Texas land that I love

Anne Ivey
Self
Lubbock, TX

I am a grandmother of nine.

I am in favor of SB 13 to get the sexually explicit books out of school libraries in Texas.

The books I have personally read as part of Citizens for Education Reform were shocking that a child as young as 11 years of age could access in middle school as well as 14 years old in high school. One book in particular that I read had "minor restricted" and was still in Lubbock ISD school libraries. I have seen other books that have pornography and describe explicit sex acts. **THIS HAS TO STOP NOW!**

I am disgusted, angry, and embarrassed that our leaders in the State of Texas are so slow to act in protecting our students. Thank you for making this a priority.

Janey Anderson
self
Lubbock, TX

Please SUPPORT SB 13, protect our children! Brain development is impacted, it is an endorsement to show in libraries, wait until age 18.

Thank you!

Shane Whitley
Self
Terrell, TX

This is not only a short sighted idea, but feels like it is approaching an overreach. Our great state was founded upon the idea of freedom, independence, and the pursuit of a life lived justified to ones own self governance. This bill would limit all three things, with no obvious benefits to quality of life, beyond censorship to ideals that our state government finds personally disagreeable. This is a bad bill and I am officially offering my voice in opposition.

Gretchen Hinkle
self / self-employed
Llano, TX

As a Texas resident, former teacher, and strong supporter of public education, I urge the House Public Education Committee to reject SB 13. This bill is an unnecessary overreach into the professional work of trained educators and librarians, and it poses a real threat to students' intellectual freedom and access to diverse ideas.

SB 13 cloaks itself in the language of parental rights, but its structure is about control and censorship—not transparency. Parents already have the legal right to review their children's educational materials. This bill goes far beyond that, allowing individual parents to restrict access to library books not only for their own children, but effectively for all students—especially when paired with the vague, politically charged standards of what constitutes "harmful," "profane," or "indecent" content. These are not educational categories; they are subjective and open to abuse.

Inserting political advisory councils between librarians and students under the guise of “reflecting local values” risks turning school libraries into battlegrounds over ideology rather than places of learning. It also disrespects the training and expertise of school librarians and educators who are already following rigorous selection policies and national standards.

What's more, SB 13 will create a bureaucratic nightmare for schools. Requiring public vetting and board approval for every new or donated library book—down to replacements of damaged copies—will lead to delays, increased administrative costs, and fewer resources for students. This does not serve education; it stifles it.

The students of Texas deserve access to books that reflect a range of identities, perspectives, and histories. They deserve school libraries that foster curiosity and critical thinking—not ones sanitized by political agendas.

The Senate ignored overwhelming public opposition to this bill. I ask this committee to listen to the educators, parents, and students who have said loud and clear: SB 13 is harmful. Please reject it and stand up for public education and intellectual freedom.

Laurie MacQueen
Self
Austin, TX

In regards to SB13, the Library Advisory Committee bill: as a born and raised Texan and school library supporter, I am asking you to oppose this bill because it would give a few politically appointed parents decision making power over what books all students in a community have access to. I would like my district to focus on improving math and reading scores instead of worrying about controlling library books. Texas already passed HB 900—a school library bill—that school districts are still working to figure out and implement—so we don't need another one. Please ask the Representative to vote "no" on SB 13 if it comes up for a committee vote. Thank you for your time.

JAMES GALLAGHER
self
JONESTOWN, TX

We don't need the state to micro manage public schools. Let the local citizenry elect the school board and hold the elected officials accountable for governance. Oppose this bill.

Terra Anders, Ms.

Self

Taylor, TX

Thank you Mr. Chairman and members of this Committee for giving me an opportunity to speak.

I am Terra Anders, I represent myself, and am opposed to SB13 the banning of books in our public school libraries.

I was raised in the facade of a perfect Christian family, which outside of the eyes of my church, operated on violent discipline, completely void of empathy, compassion and tolerance.

I also grew up in a time when book banning was just the plot of a dystopian novel. Books of all kinds were accessible during my educational journey. I read books from all different genre that collectively allowed me to see the world around me as it was, not as the perfect Christian version of life that my Sunday School had painted.

Books prepared me for the unexpected challenges that the world would set before me, and gave me confidence to meet each one as they came along. Without these early warnings gleaned from my childhood books, I would never have been able to stride boldly through the mine fields of cleverly veiled prejudice, bigotry, misogyny, and hatred that seemed to be hiding behind every corner. I discovered humanity and kindness from *To Kill a Mockingbird*, realized the importance of history through *Fahrenheit 451*, and began to understand loyalty and resilience when reading *Water for Elephants*. *Charlotte's Web* taught me confidence and helped me understand death, mourning and moving on.

Despite my often intolerable home life, books now banned from school libraries, helped me grow into a kind person, tolerant of all people, and well equipped to negotiate life's often dark twists and turns.

I urge you to vote NO on SB13 and allow children to grow up knowing the life lessons found among the pages of a library book. Give them the credit and respect they deserve to read and digest writings as they were intended to be read, not with the cynicism of a distorted adult life-view.

Thank you

Terra Anders

Taylor, TX

Matthew Mabel

self/consulting

DALLAS, TX

Honorable members of the House Public Education Committee,

I am a Texan concerned with the ongoing attacks on public education and the First Amendment in our state, and I want you to let SB 13 die in committee.

SB 13 creates two new and unconstitutional categories for censorship: vaguely defined "patently offensive" content, without constitutional safeguards; and material containing profanity, again without constitutional safeguards.

It will also make it harder for school libraries to acquire any books at all, regardless of content, by inserting government bureaucracy into the book acquisition process.

We should be making it easier for Texas children to get books, not harder. We should be empowering local schools, parents, and communities to make their own decisions about books, not giving that power to the state government. Mandating these committees will worsen reading outcomes for Texas students by creating an expensive and unnecessary process.

Please vote no on SB 13. This bill should not leave committee.

Kathy Kent-Chick

Self

Lorena, TX

Thank you for continuing this fight to put teeth into HB900. I had wanted to be there & testify today but it was not a possibility. My friends & I have been trying for 3 years to get the filthy porn books out of our local school libraries & classrooms. The Superintendent & ISD Board state they are afraid of being involved in a lawsuit with the ACLU or teachers who feel the books are "essential reading"!

One thing that most schools understand is loss of funding if the books are not removed! Just saying....

Common sense has been thrown out only to be replaced by appeasing. What's best for a child/minor is not the criteria. Loop holes like obscenity exemption is a giant barn door that's been left open for porn to come in! This is causing outrage all across the United States so make a stand and set an example please. Thank you all for making this a priority.

Channa Cobble

Self. Retired

Palestine, TX

My name is Channa Cobble, and I oppose SB 13. As the parent of an avid reader, and a former elementary school aide, I believe professional librarians, not unqualified parents, have the right to choose what belongs in our public school libraries. This bill will disrupt classroom teaching and will deprive school libraries of foundational literature, impeding the education of Texas children.

Shelley McCarty, Mrs

Self

Aledo, TX

PASS THIS BILL! Protect our children!

Sarah Evascu

Self, homeschool parent

Austin, TX

I oppose this bill because it enables "advisory councils" to remove library materials from a school library that can be "harmful", "indecent," or "inconsistent with local community values." There are no operationalized definitions for "harmful," "indecent," or "inconsistent with local community values," meaning that councils can claim whatever they want in order to justify removing and banning books. This bill provides no funding or support for proposed administrative layers of parent oversight of their students' library access. This bill removes acquisition responsibilities from trained librarians and teachers and subjects acquisition processes to constant public review and rejection, which could suppress altogether new books coming into school libraries. This bill's level of overreach and administrative bloat are unnecessary. HB900 already regulates school-based library and classroom materials to prevent harm.

Carolyn Baana, Ms

Self/Director

Laguna Vista, TX

I am AGAINST this bill. Even if well intended, which I don't think it is, the bureaucracy this requires would stifle the flow of books into our schools.

Karen Goodman

Self

Austin, TX

I trust my trained educated public school librarians to provide a variety of materials to my public school age children as well as engaging diverse perspectives. Not having parent councils control and limit for others.

Mary Eisenberg

self

Lockhart, TX

My name is Mary Eisenberg and I am a resident of Lockhart, Texas.

I am a retired public school teacher of 35 yrs, and I am now in my 12th year of substitute teaching. I am also an active member of the Friends of the Library with the Dr. Eugene Clark Library.

I urge the committee to oppose SB 13. I taught English/Language Arts both in high school and middle school for all of my 35 years as a teacher. I encouraged my students to challenge themselves in reading. Parents already have the right to choose what their children read. I sometimes had parents ask for a different book, but they did not deny the book to the rest of the class or for that matter the entire school. School librarians are trained in choosing appropriate reading materials. This would require an external burden on already burdened public schools. Book vendors should not have to rate books according some arbitrary code. Many classics would not make the cut. These advisory councils could end up with the power to approve or deny all library purchases.

This bill is book banning. Please oppose SB 13.

Thank you,

Mary Eisenberg

Please

Meredith Embry

Self

Richardson, TX

As a parent, a Texan, a voter, and a strong supporter of school libraries, I'm writing to urge you to oppose SB13.

This bill would give a small group of politically appointed parents the power to determine what books are available to all students in a community. That's not representative, and it's certainly not fair. Our focus should be on improving student outcomes—like reading comprehension and math performance—not on policing library shelves based on the personal beliefs of a few.

Texas already passed HB 900, and school districts are still working to implement those new requirements. Introducing yet another layer of oversight adds confusion, duplication, and burden—without helping students.

Personally, libraries were a sanctuary for me when I was growing up in Texas in the 1980s—a place of freedom, curiosity, and learning. I think about what books might have been pulled off the shelves back then if a handful of parents had had this kind of power, and I worry about the narrowing of perspectives for today's students.

Our librarians are trained professionals who are passionate about education. They already work thoughtfully to curate age-appropriate materials. SB13 undermines their expertise and the role of libraries as inclusive, educational spaces.

Books and libraries are not threats—they are tools for growth. We must not let political agendas distract from their true purpose.

Please vote NO on SB13. Thank you for your time and for considering the voices of everyday parents like me.

Sincerely,

Meredith Embry

308 Shady Hill Dr.

Richardson, TX 75080

meredithembry@gmail.com

214.417.6003

Ginia Black

Self, mother, citizen, constituent

SAN ANTONIO, TX

Vote Nay! SB 13 is a BOOK BAN bill wrapped in the language of "parental rights." You know, so often we hear adults these days saying "it was like this when I was a kid and I turned out. OK didn't I?" "parents certainly have the right to guide their.OWN children's reading materials. But in no way do they have a right to govern mine.

SB 13 would give a small group of parents and political activists the power to micromanage school libraries, censor books, and block students' access to diverse ideas and perspectives.It allows unfounded challenges to freeze access to books and forces districts to prioritize censorship over education.

Margaret Sweeney, Ms.

Self

Houston, TX

I urge you to oppose this bill. It's an attack on our children's freedom to read and learn. It's an attack on the rights of people and families to be themselves and see themselves reflected in their school libraries. It is an extremist attack on certain groups of people, who are hurting no one. These extreme measures are not supported by most people in Texas. And finally, the bill encourages ignorance- less reading and less thinking and perspective taking. Let's keep our kid free to read.

Sherif Sharawi

Self

Bullard, TX

I support this bill

Brynne Jones

Self - UX Designer

Austin, TX

As a Texas resident and school library supporter, I am asking you to oppose this bill because it would give a few politically appointed parents decision making power over what books all students in a community have access to. I would like my district to focus on improving math and reading scores instead of worrying about controlling library books. Also, Texas already passed HB 900—a school library bill—that school districts are still working to figure out and implement; we don't need another one.

Juanita Sharawi

Self

Bullard, TX

I support this.

William Pumfrey, Mr.

Self -- retired.

Austin, TX

Please oppose SB 13. In the current climate, an innocent-sounding "advisory council" for school libraries could open the door to harassment of librarians and libraries by a very small number of citizens. It is overly restrictive in several ways, including the apparent requirement that a librarian can't add new books to a library without prior review and approval by the advisory committee, and the somewhat nebulous reference to "local community values." I suspect that all local communities contain a spectrum of values. Such an advisory committee would have prevented many great books from getting into the libraries of numerous communities at various points in our history.

BILL KING

self - retired judge

4507 Shoal Creek Blvd Austin, TX

First, when you look at history, the book banners are never the people on the right side.

Second, will these censors be required to actually read the books they want banned? Or do they get to take a list from any random group/preacher/influencer and try to ban those books?

Third, it seems to me that this censorship board take the rights away from parent/taxpayers who do want a full range of books available to their children. If a parent is outraged by a particular book, maybe the better approach is to have that parent talk with that parent's child and those two people in the same family can work out a solution.

Finally, the point of education is to read, discuss, and (God forbid) LEARN about things a student does not already know.

This bill is just one group of parents forcing their beliefs and preferences on another group. It is the opposite of freedom. Please vote NO on SB13.

Callie Dawson

Librarians

BASTROP, TX

Librarian are trained professionals and should be treated as such. Districts in Texas have procedures if parents are concerned about material in books and school board has approved those procedures. Librarians welcome parents to have discussions with their children about what they read but having a council of people make those decisions for a district is not the best course of action. Especially if the council does not have the training in literature and best education practices to make qualified decisions. Librarians just want students to read what they are interested in and develop a stamina and love for reading.

Jessica Grady

self

Fort Worth, TX

Hello my name is Jessica Grady and I am writing today about SB 13. As a parent of a child in public school who loves to read more than anything, I am asking you to oppose this bill because it would give a few politically appointed parents decision making power over what books all students in a community have access to. I would like my district to focus on improving math and reading scores instead of worrying about controlling library books (which parents are already free to make some not accessible to their own children if they choose) Also, Texas has already passed a school library bill that is still being worked out - we don't need another one. Please vote "no" on SB 13.

Jennifer Fleck

self and Travis County Republican Party Chair

Spicewood, TX

I am for SB13. Any bill that strengthens parental rights and access in public schools is needed. Unfortunately schools hide the materials shown to students with complete disregard to the law and families.

Sandy Zamora

self/Licensed Professional Counselor

San Antonio, TX

I call on you to take action and vote NAY on SB 13.

Scot Ratcliff

Sane Texans

Troup, TX

I support this bill!

Get porn & related materials out of our schools & libraries, away from our kids!!

Julie Gurley
Self retired
Bee Cave, TX

This is essentially a book ban. We need to trust our trained and educated librarians who already have guidance to choose appropriate materials for our children.

Esther Kim
Self
Sugar Land, TX

Please oppose this bill as it gives power to a few politically appointed parents to make decisions about which books students have access to in school libraries. This is so incredibly restrictive, and every parent should have a voice - not just a select few. Diverse perspectives and voices should be represented in school libraries, and it is hard to see how a council will help with that. We should trust school librarians and their expertise in collection development. Censorship only hurts students, and students should have access to a rich and diverse collection of literature.

Adam Humphrey
Self
Austin, TX

Please stop micromanaging librarians and restricting access to information.

Jon R Ker, COL (Ret)
Self Attorney
Valley Mills, TX

Stop sexualizing kids. Vote to protect our kids from pornography in the libraries.

Cathy Jaster
self / retired
Georgetown, TX

PLEASE SUPPORT SB 13. Children should not be exposed to this type of material. Parents need to know what their child is being exposed to and be able to protect their children from this harmful material. There have been studies that children exposed to porn are put on a path to become addicted to such material and become pedophiles.

Dawna Wood
Self
Mckinney, TX

I support HB13 as a citizen of TX USA and urge you to support Paxton HB13.

Timothy Dunn

N/A

Lucas, TX

The current draft of this bill allows any bad actor in a district's jurisdiction (parent or not) to freeze a school's curriculum and there are no repercussions in the bill for doing so. A resident could, for example, challenge every book on the syllabus in junior English. Those books are then pulled until reviewed by the committee. Then when replacement books are selected, those books could be challenged by the same person (or another). This continues without end and without consequence to the challenger. It isn't even difficult to figure this out. As drafted the bill is ripe for malingering.

Additionally, I have serious concerns that private schools are not included (I have admittedly not read closely enough regarding charters). Certain private institutions are popping up in the State whose libraries may be littered with antisemitic, anti-western, and anti-Christian books containing violent rhetoric. To exempt these institutions from the sorts of challenges public institutions must face risks these schools, now fortified by SB2, radicalizing their student base as we have seen in some foreign nations.

Happy to discuss with any member who wishes to reach out.

Lisa Brown

Self

Austin, TX

Controlling school libraries, SB 13 by Senator Paxton

I am a former educator who worked for Austin ISD, Austin community College, and I also worked for the Charles A. Dana Center at the University of Texas for 18 years training math teachers all over the United states and sometimes in Europe or Mexico. My specialty were the middle grades 6th grade through Algebra I and I was award-winning teacher.

A great school librarian is a multifaceted professional who is an effective teacher, a skilled information leader, and a dedicated advocate for literacy and lifelong learning. They create a welcoming and inclusive library space, manage resources effectively, and collaborate with teachers to enhance classroom instruction.

SB 13 appears to contradict such professionalism. Professional librarians would be diminished to something on the order of a "traffic cop," by censoring certain stories or histories (e.g. acknowledging that the United States built it's wealth on the backs of Black, Brown, and Indigenous citizens, and refusing to affirm the humanity of trans students adds insult to injury.

Furthermore, the bill puts parents in control of their school libraries alongside a school library advisory council , rather than professional librarians.

As a lesbian who was marginalized in high school, my journey was not easy. I cannot stay silent if even one young trans student is marginalized for their gender and/ sexuality. This bill is masquerading as something to appease the parents' rights. However, it is also clear that this is an attempt at denying LGBTQ+ stories and the accomplishments of trans students.

SB 13 appears to contradict such professionalism. Professional librarians would be diminished to something on the order of a "traffic cop," by censoring certain stories or histories (e.g. acknowledging that the United States built it's wealth on the backs of Black, Brown, and Indigenous citizens.

Refusing to affirm the humanity of trans students adds insult to injury.

Furthermore, the bill puts parents in control of their school libraries alongside a school library advisory council, rather than professional librarians.

This bill is masquerading as something to appease parents' rights. However, it is also clear that this is an attempt at erasing LGBTQ+ content in school libraries as part of a larger effort to erase LGBTQ content in school libraries writ large.

Young people need to read about diverse people and their felt experiences, including Black, Brown, Asian, Indigenous students and/or diverse faith communities.

Daniel Hunt, State Republican Executive Committeeman SD3

Self - attorney

Athens, TX

Good morning Chairman and members. Thank you for allowing me to address the committee on SB13. My name is Daniel Hunt and I am here to speak in favor of SB13. I serve on the State Republican Executive Committee as the Senate District 3 Committeeman. I also serve as the Republican County Chairman in Henderson County. Today, I come before you as a private citizen.

Parents have a God-given, natural, biological right to raise their children as they believe is best for the child. That right is enshrined in and guaranteed by our Constitution. No human being in the world has more concern for the best interest of a child than the parent of that child.

There is a reason we keep Playboy and Hustler magazines behind the counter in the 7/11 store. Why would we allow similar material in our school libraries?

Almost all parents are forced to send their children to public schools. Through COVID, parents became aware of many concerning things their children were exposed to in schools. Parents should have every right to oversee what their children are being exposed to in that school.

SB900, passed in the 88th Legislature, went a long way to addressing the issue of sexually explicit materials in schools. SB13 fixes many of the holes left by SB900. Please pass SB13 favorably from Committee. Thank you for allowing me to testify.

Debra Squires

self

Austin, TX

This bill will be detrimental to school libraries. Students deserve access to high-quality library materials, and librarians need to be trusted to do their jobs without this kind of oversight. Vote no!

Daniel Dawer

Self

Austin, TX

Chair and Members of the Committee,

I'm a former Texas public school teacher registering my opposition to SB 13. I've seen firsthand how important school libraries are in helping students grow as readers, thinkers, and members of a diverse society.

Librarians are trained professionals who carefully select books that support students' learning and reflect their varied experiences. SB 13 would take that responsibility away, giving final say to school boards and advisory councils that may not have the time or expertise to thoughtfully review materials. It would also allow books to be removed from shelves based on a single complaint, even before any formal review. That means one objection could block access for all students.

This bill would make it harder—not easier—for libraries to acquire new books, at a time when we need kids reading more than ever to recover from the learning disruptions of the pandemic. Our focus should be on expanding access to high-quality, engaging materials—not slowing it down with more red tape and censorship.

Parents absolutely deserve a voice, and they already have many ways to be involved in their children's education. But SB 13 risks silencing the voices of educators and students in the process.

I respectfully urge you to vote no on SB 13 and support policies that strengthen school libraries and help all students thrive.

Deborah Glast

Self

Austin, TX

The American public, from children to seniors, have the right to access materials through our public libraries and schools that represent all Americans and a variety of ideas- not just the people or ideas one group or one parent approves of! Freedom of thought, freedom of information, and the right to choose what you read for yourself should not preclude others from choosing for themselves! Discriminatory opinions and biases against lgbqia+, non-white, non-Christian communities only harm the public and in no way protect the public, particularly children, from “harmful” ideas. In fact, the bans do exactly what they claim to prevent! Book banning causes harm! These biased and bigoted opinions do not represent the majority of people in Texas nor their opinions! Stop banning books! Stop banning books!

Kristi Gienza

self/parent

Lubbock, TX

I am a Lubbock ISD parent and am disappointed that the legislature continues to require more and more layers of requirements for procuring library books. We already have a system in place, and in fact, it is being abused by people who are not reading the books before they are asking for removal. A very few people in our district have requested that well over 100 books be reconsidered. There were 40 books requested for removal that were not even in our school libraries! There are books being reconsidered now that are Pulitzer Prize-winning books. These books have been in school libraries for over 40 years. We should be focusing on improving literacy and access to library books, not micromanaging districts that abide by the law. Our district has systems to consider books for procurement, allow parents to restrict their own childrens' books, and to reconsider books already in the library. This bill will limit children's access to books because it will create a chilling affect and create unnecessary layers of bureaucracy in order for librarians to order books with already limited funds. My child is an IB student, and should have access to books that will prepare her for college and that are college-level. Other parents who serve on an advisory board, who may or may not have read books or have any training in middle school and high school curricula, should not be determining what books my child should read. It is also unrealistic for school board trustees to be expected to read incoming books for approval.

This is a parental rights' issue, and my child deserves the right to access literature that her parents deem appropriate. Other parents or legislators should not be taking that right away. Parents already have access to student curricula and library books and can restrict their own child's access.

Thanks for considering all parental rights, not just the very small number of parents who want to restrict other people's children's access to books.

Please focus on policy that can actually protect children and improve the learning environment, like banning phones from campus--not just in the classroom, but from the time the bell rings in the morning until the bell at the end of the day.

David Stein

Self

Tyler, TX

I would like to offer my support for this bill which closes a loophole ensuring HB 900 which passed last session can be fully enforced. There is far too much ambiguity allowing materail to be place in school libraries and exposing children to content not suitable for their age. Standards for decency exist for good reason and should be applied and followed through in school libraries as well.

Keri Slater

self

Austin, TX

AGAINST! STRONGLY AGAINST!

Linda Ricks
Self
Midlothian, TX

Dear Members,

Please support this bill. It is very important that we do everything necessary to protect children from inappropriate reading materials.

Thank you,
Linda Ricks

Kelly Jones
Self
Crowley, TX

Please vote in favor of this bill and protect the rights of parents to be involved with the education and educational materials for their children.

Hearing Date: May 6, 2025 8:00 AM

Lana Allred
Self
Leonard, TX

Passing this bill is critical to ensuring the safety of our children from the constant sexual exploitation and grooming taking place through written material.

The READER Act was an important first step to remove sexually explicit material from school libraries—but the law is not working as intended and must be fixed. ?? Legal delays and enforcement failures have left Texas schoolchildren exposed.

??? SB 13 strengthens the law by:

- ?? Clarifying content standards
- ?? Requiring consistent review procedures
- ?? Ensuring accountability and transparency
- ?? Giving parents a voice

Thank you for helping to protect God's children!

Cathey L Fleming, Myself
Myself
Bridge City, TX

I am in full support of SB 13. Thank you.

Paula Murray
self/retired educator
Horseshoe Bay, TX

I am requesting that this bill is passed to protect our students. They should not be subjected to inappropriate content in our school libraries. I don't even understand how this became an issue if people would use common sense and Biblical principles.

Mike Jackson
self / retired
Lufkin, TX

I completely support SB 13. It is a sad commentary on our society when legislation like this has to be passed to protect our children. I urge the committee to pass this bill out of committee.

Angela Tweedie
Self-Concerned Grandparent
Tyler, TX

Subject: Please Support and Advance SB 13

I'm asking you to support Senate Bill 13, which strengthens and clarifies the READER Act. While HB 900 had the right intent, it has not delivered the results parents expected.

SB 13 brings much-needed clarity and structure to the library review process. It defines what content is unacceptable, sets consistent standards for enforcement, and ensures parents are part of the conversation. SB 13 also addresses the ongoing issue of inappropriate books entering our schools, providing necessary safeguards to stop this flow of inappropriate material.

Please help move SB 13 out of committee and onto the House floor for a vote. Texas families are depending on it.

Sincerely,
[Your Name], [Your City or School District]

Subject: Please Support and Advance SB 13

I'm asking you to support Senate Bill 13, which strengthens and clarifies the READER Act. While HB 900 had the right intent, it has not delivered the results parents expected.

SB 13 brings much-needed clarity and structure to the library review process. It defines what content is unacceptable, sets consistent standards for enforcement, and ensures parents are part of the conversation. SB 13 also addresses the ongoing issue of inappropriate books entering our schools, providing necessary safeguards to stop this flow of inappropriate material.

Please help move SB 13 out of committee and onto the House floor for a vote. Texas families are depending on it.

Sincerely,
Angela Tweedie- Tyler, Texas

Brenda K Estis
Self / Retired / SREC SD 15 Committeewoman
Houston, TX

I SUPPORT this bill!!

Michael Belsick
Fredericksburg Tea Party
Fredericksburg, TX

FOR SB 13 Important bill!

Dawn Conner
The Plot Twist, LLC
Denton, TX

As a concerned Texan, I urge you to let SB 13 die in committee. This bill represents a troubling attack on both public education and the First Amendment.

SB 13 proposes two vague and unconstitutional categories of censorship: so-called "patently offensive" material and content that includes profanity—both lacking the constitutional protections required for such classifications.

In addition to its censorship concerns, the bill would burden school libraries by adding unnecessary layers of government bureaucracy to the book selection process. This would make it more difficult—not easier—for Texas students to access books.

We should be supporting our schools, not undermining them. Local educators, parents, and communities—not the state—should decide which books belong in school libraries. SB 13 threatens that local control and risks worsening educational outcomes by imposing costly and inefficient mandates.

I respectfully urge you to vote no on SB 13 and prevent it from advancing beyond committee.

Sincerely,
Dawn Conner

Jessica Dill
Self
Taylor, TX

Honorable members of the House Public Education Committee,

I am a Texan concerned with the ongoing attacks on public education and the First Amendment in our state, and I want you to let SB 13 die in committee.

SB 13 creates two new and unconstitutional categories for censorship: vaguely defined “patently offensive” content, without constitutional safeguards; and material containing profanity, again without constitutional safeguards.

It will also make it harder for school libraries to acquire any books at all, regardless of content, by inserting government bureaucracy into the book acquisition process.

We should be making it easier for Texas children to get books, not harder. We should be empowering local schools, parents, and communities to make their own decisions about books, not giving that power to the state government. Mandating these committees will worsen reading outcomes for Texas students by creating an expensive and unnecessary process.

Please vote no on SB 13. This bill should not leave committee.

Jody Zemel

Taxpayer

Austin, TX

Honorable members of the House Public Education Committee,

I am a Texan concerned with the ongoing attacks on public education and the First Amendment in our state, so I am asking you to let SB 13 die in committee.

SB 13 creates two new and unconstitutional categories for censorship: vaguely defined “patently offensive” content, without constitutional safeguards; and material containing profanity, again without constitutional safeguards.

Inserting government bureaucracy into the book acquisition process will also make it harder for school libraries to acquire any books, regardless of content.

Our focus should be on simplifying the process for Texas children to obtain books instead of making it more difficult. It is essential to grant local schools, parents, and communities the autonomy to determine their book selections, instead of ceding that responsibility to the state government. Mandating these committees will worsen reading outcomes for Texas students by creating an expensive and unnecessary process.

Please vote no on SB 13. This bill should not leave the committee.

Tess Coody, Ms.

Self

Seguin, TX

Honorable members of the House Public Education Committee, and The Honorable Alan Schoolcraft in particular,

I am a voting resident of District 44 and a Texan concerned with the ongoing attacks on public education and the First Amendment in our state, and I want you to let SB 13 die in committee.

SB 13 creates two new and unconstitutional categories for censorship: vaguely defined “patently offensive” content, without constitutional safeguards; and material containing profanity, again without constitutional safeguards.

It will also make it harder for school libraries to acquire any books at all, regardless of content, by inserting government bureaucracy into the book acquisition process.

We should be making it easier for Texas children to get books, not harder. We should be empowering local schools, parents, and communities to make their own decisions about books, not giving that power to the state government. Mandating these committees will worsen reading outcomes for Texas students by creating an expensive and unnecessary process.

Please vote no on SB 13. This bill should not leave committee.

Tess Coody

RAschel Harbison, Ms

Self / Parent

Kyle, TX

I am writing to express my strong opposition to Senate Bill 13, which would fundamentally alter the way Texas public school libraries select, manage, and provide access to materials by shifting authority from professional librarians to parental advisory councils and school boards.

While I support parental involvement in education, SB 13 goes too far by undermining the expertise of trained librarians who are best equipped to curate age-appropriate, educational, and diverse materials for students. By empowering advisory councils and school boards-often without relevant library or educational training-to overrule professional judgment, this bill risks politicizing library collections and limiting students' access to a broad range of ideas and literature.

The bill's provisions for immediate removal of challenged books, even before a thorough review, open the door to censorship and the targeting of books that reflect the experiences of marginalized communities, including people of color and LGBTQ+ individuals. Such actions threaten intellectual freedom and the right of every student to see themselves represented in the materials available to them.

Furthermore, SB 13 would create significant administrative burdens for school districts, diverting time and resources away from teaching and learning. The resulting patchwork of library policies across districts could lead to unequal access to information for Texas students, putting some at a disadvantage based solely on where they live.

Our school libraries should be places of discovery, critical thinking, and inclusivity. I urge you to oppose SB 13 and instead support policies that respect professional expertise, uphold intellectual freedom, and ensure all students have access to a wide variety of educational resources.

Frank Strong

Self, Texas Freedom to Read Project

Austin, TX

I am writing to express strong opposition to SB13, which will cause significant harm to Texas schools and students.

By slowing down the library purchasing process and treating every book as guilty until proven innocent, SB13 will drastically reduce librarians' ability to stock their shelves. This is precisely what has happened in districts like Keller ISD and Carroll ISD that have adopted measures similar to those found in the bill.

And SB13 also adds two new vague, broad categories of books that are forbidden in Texas schools: books with "indecent content" and books with "profane content." Both categories go beyond the mandate to remove sexually explicit books, requiring schools to remove books that are merely "offensive," even without any sexual content. As a result, innocent books will be removed from schools, and students will lose access to great books. Again, we know this because it has already happened in Texas school districts that have adopted similar provisions in their district policies.

The lessons of the districts across the state that have adopted measures similar to ones you're considering in this bill are clear. SB13 will cheat Texas students of valuable reading experiences and make it harder for educators to do their jobs. Please vote against this bill.

Lisa Healy

Self

Midlothian, TX

I support this bill. Please vote yes. Thanks for your consideration

Anne Newman

Self

Boerne, TX

Please vote for this bill. No child should be exposed to pornography.

Sarah Bates
Self, retired
Houston, TX

Why people assume that someone else is more qualified to choose books for children than trained librarians and teachers is beyond me. Parents already have the ability to work with schools to supervise their own child's reading, which is all they should do. The measures in this bill will only, at best, slow the acquisition of current and timely books for children, and at worst, deny books to kids that suit their interests and research needs. The bill will result in book banning, which a majority of Texans oppose, and deny parents the right to supervise their own child's reading by imposing the views of others.

Barbara Luce
Self/Self-employed.
Plano, TX

Author unknown: An old gentleman was sitting in front of a gas station when a young couple asked him about what kind of people lived there. The old man asked the couple "Well, what kind live in your neighborhood?" They replied "Great Ones." The old man said "Well, that is what kind you will find here." The same goes for what we allow to be put in the minds of our children. We need to protect CHILDREN from sexual exploitative material. You cannot unsee what is seen - so for wholesomeness and well-being immerse our children in the same - thus ensuring the best and healthiest they can be. Support SB 13. Thank you.

Cindy Travers
self
Kingsland, TX

Dear Members of the Texas Legislature,
If the same energy driving Senate Bill 13 were directed toward ensuring every student in Texas can read, write, and do math proficiently, we'd see far greater results for our schools. Please guard against heavy-handed over-regulation and as one Senator termed a "Stalinist approach" when discussing SB 2713 last week.
SB 13 is a flawed bill. It's heavy-handed, vague in some places, and overly prescriptive in others. It creates unnecessary bureaucracy that will bog down our educators, librarians, and school boards already stretched thin. While I support the role of parents in reviewing materials through established reconsideration processes, giving parent councils a say in new acquisitions is a step too far. It undermines the expertise of trained professionals and could severely limit the quality and timeliness of educational resources.
At a time when our students face real academic challenges, this bill is a distraction — one that drags attention and resources away from the core mission of schools: educating kids. Let educators teach. Let librarians curate. Let schools focus on student learning. And finally, if bills like this are to be passed under the banner of "protecting children," they must apply equally to all — including private schools now benefiting from public funds under the newly passed school choice legislation.
Please oppose SB 13. Our schools need support, not micromanagement.

Julie Kellogg
Self
Gardendale, TX

Vote yes on this bill. It provides specific guidelines for protecting children from pornography in our tax payer funded libraries.in our tax payer funded schools.

Daniella Covarrubias
Self
Austin, TX

I am against censorship of any kind, ESPECIALLY the kind that this bill represents. As a taxpayer I expect my dollars to support students' ability to learn and grow, not for certain groups to be able to determine how or what information is deemed "correct" by parents or outside groups.

Velvet Coberley
Franklin County Republican Party Treasurer
Winnsboro, TX

This bill is far overdue. I have personally tried to get explicit material out of my counties schools but was told they did not see how the books are against the law. Texas is better than this! I totally support this bill!

Anne Griffin
self
Red Oak, TX

Please get this bill passed. SB 13. I am in strong support of this bill giving parents greater rights as to the catalogues and access to school libraries.

Jesse Boss
Self
Keller, TX

STOP the indoctrination of our precious children NOW!!! I 100% support this bill to begin the process of empowering parents to do what they do best....parent. We should all be ashamed we allowed it to get this bad.

Ginny Judson
Self
Nacogdoches, TX

I support Senate Bill 13 and ask you all to vote in favor of it. I have had a long career and child welfare and have seen so many children let astray by the lies that adults tell. These books tell lies. They introduced children to sexual topics that they are not physically, emotionally, or intellectually prepared for. These sexually graphic books are dangerous to children and should be eliminated from school libraries. I do not believe that the books should be banned. If parents want their children to read these books, and that is in their purview, not the purview of the government.

Val Turnbow
Self
Lycas, TX

I am asking for your support of SB 13. There are way too many porn books in our library at Lovejoy ISD. Parents must opt out of classics because they have blurred the lines with obscenities such as hard core porn explicit language and classic books so our only choice is to opt out of all books. This is wrong! They should not be allowed to even buy with our taxpayer funds these explicit books in the first place. Please pass this bill so parents have more say in what's allowed so we can ensure our kids are not sexualized with this type of smut in our libraries. Thank you

Jackie Williams
Self
Magnolia, TX

Please support SB13 to protect our young children from over exposure to materials that are inappropriate for them.

John Huston
Self
Llano, TX

This Bill needs to be passed. There many Obscene books in The Llano high school. Please put some teeth in this bill.

phil casali
self
pount, TX
support

Cole Musselman
self computer programmer
Pflugerville, TX

I am writing to stand in opposition to Senate Bill 13. SB 13 not only infringes on my rights as a taxpayer in Texas, but is an overreach of governmental powers. It takes away my rights and freedoms as a parent and dictates how I raise and educate my children.

For libraries, it slows down their ability to provide meaningful content and educational materials for students. It takes away the authority of schoolboards and librarians to review and regulate their materials and instead gives the decision to a group of politically appointed Advisory Council members.

Keeps your bans off of our books!

Esme Smith
self, self-employed
Pflugerville, TX

I am writing to stand in opposition to Senate Bill 13. SB 13 not only infringes on my rights as a taxpayer in Texas, but is an overreach of governmental powers. It takes away my rights and freedoms as a parent and dictates how I raise and educate my children.

For libraries, it slows down their ability to provide meaningful content and educational materials for students. It takes away the authority of schoolboards and librarians to review and regulate their materials and instead gives the decision to a group of politically appointed Advisory Council members.

Keeps your bans off of our books!

Diane Moster
self, Physical therapist
Llanio, TX

Further legislation to police libraries and librarians is not necessary. Librarians are among the most highly educated and dedicated personnel within a school district. When do you remember a librarian hurting children? The time and money spent to limit the ability of a librarian to carry out her/his duties is ridiculous. Spend time on improvements to education, roads, bridges, water supply, and medical care. Why do you spend so much of you time on these social issues and not on the matters of running this state!!!???

Tandee Bywater
Self- Teacher
Flower Mound, TX

Dear Representative,

I am Tandee Bywater and I am a Texas reading teacher. I am contacting you to share my concerns about SB 13 which will be considered by the House Public Education Committee on May 6, 2025.

SB 13 requires Texas school boards to approve all library materials before an order may be placed. Library orders must be posted for public comment for 30 days before approval. And school districts must establish Local School Library Advisory Councils, comprised of at least five parents appointed by school board members.

The political appointees on the Council will determine which library books are appropriate for each grade and recommend the removal of any books deemed to be harmful or inconsistent with community values. They also have the final say in whether or not a book should remain in the school library collection.

School districts purchase hundreds, if not thousands, of library materials and orders are placed several times throughout the school year. For example, one large Texas school district placed 605 library orders from September - February, a total of 60,509 new books.

How will a small council manage to review those purchase orders in a timely manner?

Adding multiple levels of review to the purchasing process creates significant barriers to a district's ability to purchase essential library materials and will negatively impact student learning.

Please do not limit our school libraries' ability to support literacy and engage students in reading.

Thank you,
Tandee Bywater

Kathryn Delamarter
Self-school librarian
Lewisville, TX

My name is Katie Delamarter, and I'm a proud Texas Public School Librarian. I've given 23 years of service to the students of Texas, 17 of those as a school librarian. I've been nominated three times for my district's librarian of the year award. I love my job but Texas legislators are making it harder and harder to walk through that door every day. Here's the thing about school library books: school districts already have policies in place that stipulate the criteria for selecting library books. We have very stringent rules to follow before purchasing library books. For example, they must have at least two positive reviews from professional review organizations, not just any reader on Amazon or the internet. The interest level must be for at least 2 grade levels that we serve on our campus. Those are just two examples of criteria, but many more criteria are in place when ordering library books. It takes WEEKS to build lists, read the reviews, check what we already have in our collection, and narrow down the final choices. How will a committee of five people who don't have a degree in Library Science and who do not know a thing about the students who visit my school library, do all of that in a few hours each year?

Also, books already take months to arrive on campus. How much longer will it take if the list has to sit on the internet for 30 days before we can even place the order? If this passes, we'll be lucky to get one book order each year. We typically order multiple times throughout the school year. Who will tell all the students why we don't have the newest Diary of a Wimpy Kid, Dog Man, Babysitter's Club, or other popular series book yet when it's been out for months? Not anyone on this committee, that's for sure.

We have over 21,800 book checkouts this year at our campus alone. How will we notify parents every single time a book is checked out from our Library? I'm just one person seeing multiple classes a day while managing a collection of over 11,000 books and all that entails: book repair, shelving, library displays, checking books in and out, lesson planning, curating book lists, helping patrons as they visit throughout the day, etc.

Why aren't our legislators spending more time on the real culprit in our society's downfall, technology? That powerful device has access to WAY MORE HARMFUL AND UNFILTERED materials than anything they can find in a library. We should be happy that they read age-appropriate books in their school and public libraries.

Hannah Jala

self

Austin, TX

As a Texan and school library supporter, I am asking the committee to oppose SB13 because it would give a few politically appointed parents decision making power over what books all students in a community have access to. I would like my district to focus on improving math and reading scores instead of worrying about controlling library books. Also, Texas already passed HB 900- a school library bill- that school districts are still working to figure out and implement- so we don't need another one. Please ask the Representative to vote "no" on SB 13 if it comes up for a committee vote.

Thank you

Amanda Chacon

Self, School Librarian of 15 years

Humble, TX

As the School Library Journal's 2024 Librarian of the Year and a certified school librarian with over 15 years of experience, I am writing to express my deep concern about House Bill 13. This legislation threatens to undo the progress I and many others have worked so hard to achieve in building strong, student-centered library programs across Texas.

One of my primary concerns is the lack of a requirement for certified, trained librarians to be part of library advisory committees. If the goal is to ensure high-quality, age-appropriate materials for students, then it only makes sense to include professionals who are trained in literacy development, intellectual freedom, and curriculum alignment. Excluding librarians from these decisions undermines our expertise and the quality of our school libraries.

HB 13 also creates additional barriers to book purchasing. These delays will slow the delivery of fresh, engaging, and diverse reading materials that students need to stay interested in reading. According to the National Center for Education Statistics, students who read for fun almost every day score 27 points higher on reading assessments than those who rarely or never read. Access to books is essential to student success and long-term academic growth.

This bill also sends a harmful message: that trained professionals like myself cannot be trusted to do the work we are educated and hired to do. I show up every day committed to literacy, equity, and student well-being. Every book I select is chosen with purpose and care, grounded in both research and a deep understanding of my students' needs.

I urge you to vote against the provisions of HB 13. Please support policies that value and include certified librarians. Trust the professionals who dedicate their careers to helping Texas children become lifelong readers and critical thinkers.

Barbra Franklin
Self, Reference Associate
McKinney, TX

Thank you for your time and consideration to this bill, which I urgently urge you to vote NO on SB13 by Paxton. There are many issues with this bill and I will attempt to raise your awareness of them. First, this is a TEXAS statewide bill that will affect every school library in the state. While another library bill was being discussed in the Senate House Affairs Committee, Senator Richard Raymond (D, District 42) asked a very good question, "Why aren't these library book issues being resolved locally?" Second, most libraries, school and public, have professional Librarians who are very very good at their jobs that include collection development and book challenges. In public schools, librarians are also teachers who are certified in the classroom AND as school media specialists/librarians. They are highly educated and well-versed in child development, reading, and librarianship. I looked up the statistics from my city, McKinney, and the ISD there shows that there are 23,306 students in the district. Librarians see/interact/teach/help ALL students within their designated school. MISD currently has 24 full-time Librarians, which equates to almost 1,000 students per Librarian, whereas the student to teacher ratio per classroom is 14.72:1. Almost 1,000 students is a lot of students to keep track of who can read what, a policy they already have in place, in addition to all of the other duties of being a librarian. I was also able to see that 73 books have been challenged and then banned from MISD libraries, as the Librarians followed the Selection Criteria in the MISD board policy EFB Local that has both Legal Framework and Local Policies outlined, to include book challenge procedures. I fully trust ALL public school districts in Texas have similar procedures. Third, adding the Local School Library Council only adds time to procure books or accept donations, which also needs the approval of the local School Board and the Superintendent, before even purchasing any books. Other school districts in the state have adopted these procedures and have seriously decreased the number of books even ordered for a school year. This, in my opinion, is an exorbitant and unnecessary step as Librarians already do this work. Fourth, the councils members will be primarily made up of parents, who may have little to no education or library backgrounds outside of their own school experiences. Fifth, vague wording continues to be prevalent in these bills: "harmful material" (weapons, violence?), "indecent content" (affairs by high ranking officials?), "profane content" (sound bites by politicians?). Sixth, what about students rights to privacy? A 17 year old can't check out a book without parent notification? Thank you

Martha Winters
Self/retired teacher
Georgetown, TX

I oppose the ideas of SB13. Our public school libraries are a source of information, research, and enrichment for our public school children; for many their only available resource of this kind. I oppose putting the selection of books provided to our children in the hands of politically appointed selectors whose views should remain their own regarding the appropriateness of the books provided by the school. This is the job of the well trained, professional school librarians and must remain such. A handful of outside influencers must not be given such authority over public school libraries which are for all of the students with varying interests and abilities.

I oppose SB13 and fervently hope the committee think long and hard about the implications of such authoritarian steps-which are not necessary and not desired by many voting parents and grandparents of Texas school children.

Respectfully submitted,
Martha Winters

Margaret Lucas

Self

Houston, TX

Honorable members of the House Public Education Committee,

I am a Texan concerned with the ongoing attacks on public education and the First Amendment in our state, and I want you to let SB 13 die in committee.

SB 13 creates two new and unconstitutional categories for censorship: vaguely defined “patently offensive” content, without constitutional safeguards; and material containing profanity, again without constitutional safeguards. No bill should be able to pass without constitutional safeguards which is what our country was founded upon.

This will also make it harder for school libraries to acquire any books at all, regardless of content, by inserting government bureaucracy into the book acquisition process.

We should be making it easier for Texas children to get books, not harder. We should be empowering local schools, parents, and communities to make their own decisions about books, not giving that power to the state government. Mandating these committees will worsen reading outcomes for Texas students by creating an expensive and unnecessary process.

Please vote no on SB 13. This bill should not leave committee.

Susan Cooper

Self, Librarian

Georgetown, TX

SB 13 is unconstitutional and only invites expensive lawsuits that the state will have to defend. SB 13 denies parents' and students' First Amendment right of free speech. If passed, parents would not be able to choose what books their own child can and can't read. This is a bedrock policy in libraries. Certified school librarians are professional educators who purchase books based on the needs and wishes of all their students and parents. If a parent doesn't want their child to have certain types of books, they can notify their school librarian who can make a note of that in the students' library record for future checkouts. There is no need for such political overreach. Aside from probable overly strict limits on the content of books that are purchased, library advisory committees will severely slow down an already slow purchasing process. In this time of declining literacy rates, it's important to keep libraries, books and ready, relevant in the eyes of our students.

Debby Harris

Self School librarian

Austin, TX

My name is Debby and I'm commenting in regards to SB13, the Library Advisory Committee bill. As a parent/Texan/voter and school library supporter, I am asking you to oppose this bill because it would give a few politically appointed parents decision making power over what books all students in a community have access to. I would like my district to focus on improving math and reading scores instead of worrying about controlling library books. Also, Texas already passed HB 900- a school library bill- that school districts are still working to figure out and implement- so we don't need another one. Please ask the Representative to vote "no" on SB 13 if it comes up for a committee vote. Thank you.

Alena Keene
Self
Fort Worth, TX

I oppose SB 13. SB 13 is an overreach of governmental power. It takes away individual freedoms from parents, students, community members, and school board trustees to review and regulate school library materials and instead gives the authority to a small group of politically appointed School Library Advisory Council members. ??These members would likely not be trained library professionals or teachers who are qualified to make library curation decisions. Requiring that library book purchases go through an additional step of approval will increase the wait times of students seeking the latest book in popular series or by popular authors. SB13 does not even require all council members to have children enrolled in the public school system the committee allegedly represents. Even if it did require all council members to be parents of children enrolled in the district, a few parents should not get to decide what books everyone's children in the district won't have access to in the school libraries. Parents should only be able to restrict what their own children have access to by monitoring what their own children are borrowing/reading/watching and having conversations with their own children about their family values and expectations. Library curation and collection development decisions should be left to trained librarians with input (such as requests for new books) from a variety of local stakeholders. ??Under SB13, School Library Advisory Councils would have the power to remove library materials from school libraries that are inconsistent with "community values." The values of certain community members should not be prioritized above others. Libraries should have books that represent every community's diverse population and interests. For these reasons, I ask that you keep politics out of our schools by strongly opposing SB13 in Texas.

Lou Ann Montana
Self
Spring, TX

Hi, my name is Lou Ann and I'm writing in regard to SB13, the Library Advisory Committee bill. As a parent, Texan, and school library supporter, I am asking you to oppose this bill. It would give a few potentially politically appointed parents decision-making power over what books any and all students in a community have access to. Parents should make the decisions about library books for THEIR OWN children, but not for ALL children. Please vote NO on SB 13. Thank you."

Laura Fuller
Self
Katy, TX

No one should be able to tell me what is appropriate or not for me or my family to have access too. Libraries are meant to provide whatever a patron wants—not what a committee says is ok. These laws will only make it challenging for library staff to order books and create unnecessary red tape and hoops for them to jump through. Please vote no on this bill and focus on real government issues. Leave family choices to the family

Carol Wayne
Self
Leander, TX

People need free access to books and information.

Melanie Jackson
Self
Richardson, TX

I am a parent who has three children in public schools. I do not think SB 13 will improve the library experience for any child. I don't want other parents selecting or deselecting appropriate books. I want professionals- specifically librarians- to do the work. They are the professionals, and I trust their judgment regarding all children. I don't know which parents would be on this committee with a specific agenda that would then eliminate books unnecessarily. We already have vetting processes in place and opt outs in our district. Quit creating more barriers for schools and libraries. Allow the local districts to put their guard rails in place and trust their local professionals, and leave it alone.
I very much oppose SB 13. I think it's a waste. It's narrow minded and will cause more trouble than it's worth.

Gregg La Montagne

Self

AUSTIN, TX

I am opposed to this bill. It put encumbrances on the abilities for teachers to teach and librarians to support them. It is bad legislation trying to solve a problem that does not exist.

Justin Swink

Self

Watauga, TX

As a parent and citizen who believes in freedom of speech, I strongly oppose SB 13. No one and no group should have a say in what my children have access to in a library. The responsibility of what my children read resides with me. I trust librarians and teachers to do their job. I do not have any trust in an outside group or organization to say what my child can and cannot read. That is none of their business. In my 41 years, I have never encountered ANY books in a school or public library that were "dangerous." And while we waste time and money concerned with what children are reading, school violence and the threat of gun violence in schools remains. The priorities of this state government are backwards. Make it your primary goal to allow children attend schools without the anxiety of violence. No book I have every encountered in a school library has ever hurt a child. Not one. In 2025, there have been 14 gun related incidents in Texas school (<https://www.gunviolencearchive.org/reports/mass-shooting?sort=desc&order=State>). Get your priorities straight. This bill is a slap in the face of educators, librarians, and parents. It's also a waste of taxpayer money as the result of this bill would require the development of agency oversight, as well as put an enormous burden on librarians to perpetually evaluate their collections to ensure that it meets the dubious requirements proposed by non-experts.

As a parent, a citizen, and a believer in free speech and the free flow of ideas, I urge you to strike this bill down. Vote 'NO'. Uphold our Constitutional rights and our American ideals. Keep Big Brother out of our libraries.

Daniel Masson

Self-Teacher/Author

Kingwood, TX

As a Teacher/Author, I do not believe that the State, whether through advisory councils or any other Governmental authority, should be able to control written content in the effort to "protect children from perceived harm". Harm is a subjective term, and one individual, or group of individuals should not have a say in regards to what an entire community has access to. While parents and libraries can help children find content that is appropriate for them on an individual basis based on the maturity of the child in question, in their own personal home, no one should be able to dictate for a whole community.

The fact is that students barely read now, and further repression, in my view, will do more harm than good. By the First Amendment to the U. S. Constitution, it is a violation of the rights of the individual to censor texts, such as books and other reading materials. We have a right to read what we wish, without interference from Government. Even the Texas Constitution, Article I, Section 8, protects this fundamental right. Let the students read what they are able to comprehend, and do not restrict content based on a single person's perspective or a group perspective.

A State that controls what others can say, do, read, or think, is not a state at all. We need to be able to read to put together the basis for collective thought and individual liberty. Throughout time, societies have thrown down kings and rulers for restricting their basic human rights. Fact is that children and adults automatically will self select what they wish to read, and if the Government starts controlling what we think, do, say, or read those individuals in that State no longer have control over their own minds, truly creating the purest conditions for brainwashing and mind control-a thought police. If parents wish to opt out of a written text then they should have to state, for the record, the reasons why the text is offensive, through chapter and verse, not just because they say so.

Kay Masson, Mrs.

Texas Freedom To Read Project

Kingwood, TX

Reading has always been a necessity for a great society, but I have noticed, especially recently, that there are so many adults and children who don't like to read, or can't read. I remember growing up and being able to read all sorts of books. And there were not as many as there are today. I was a slow reader, so trying to keep up with my friends was really difficult and it made me not want or like to read.

Once I started to find books out there that I wanted to read, books that interested me, I wanted to read them, and I did. I am so glad that they were available and I was able to read something that interested and inspired me. I have read some very interesting books, some great, and some not to my taste, but I had that right.

Please don't take away a child's freedom to choose what they want to read, unless you want a society that cannot read. We, as a society have worked hard so children will grow up to be functional and fundamental members of society.

I don't believe that because a child has access to reading material, something one parent has objections to, that my child or someone else's child should not have access to that material. I would bet that the parents who want to stop access to certain reading material, are parents who, when they were younger, had the right and had access to whatever they wanted to read, so why are they trying to make it that others cannot read what they wish? Why do they get to dictate to my children and others' children what their choices are or can be.

When my children were young I read to them. As they grew up they devoured books. Their friends who were not allowed to read certain books, such as Harry Potter, learned not to read. I'm sure they don't read much today, but my grown up children have become adults who are successful in nearly everything they do.

Our school libraries, and libraries in general have been a God-send for many families over the years. My family has spent many years in libraries selecting the books we wanted to read, were they always appropriate? Probably not, as you can't tell a book from its cover whether it's good or not, or even appropriate. But that should be a right for that child. How can they learn their interests if it is kept from them? How can they learn to choose what their goals in life can be without knowledge of what's out there.

I also wonder if the adults who want to dictate what other adults' children should not read pay attention to what their children look at or read online.

Please do not let this bill go forward. We do not need more ignorance in this world. God gave us each a brain and free will, so don't take that away, too.

Leila Dolan

Self

San Antonio, TX

OPPOSE SB 13

I was in agreement until Sec.A33.025. LOCAL SCHOOL LIBRARY ADVISORY COUNCIL.

Parents should have access to their children's records and a choice in what materials their children may access. But other parents should NOT be making those decisions for MY children. I am the parent and don't need a group placed in power by the state to determine what my kids may access and read. It is nonsensical that I am not trusted to make those decisions for my child and that a governmental group can usurp my parental responsibilities and not allow me to determine what is best for my own children. This is an example of governmental overreach and the state not allowing PARENT CHOICE -- parents should be allowed to make parenting decisions without being watched and "nannied" by the state. OPPOSE SB 13 if this section remains in the bill.

Chris Donofrio

Self

The Woodlands, TX

I STRONGLY OPPOSE SB 13.

SB 13 is unconstitutional, based on the Board of Education v. Pico US Supreme Court decision referenced by SB 13's 20 authors.

These Senators do not cite the actual decision, which nullifies everything in SB 13, and other library-related bills.

The following was copied from the 'Justia – US Supreme Court' website.

First the context:

“Petitioner Board of Education, rejecting recommendations of a committee of parents and school staff that it had appointed, ordered that certain books, which the Board characterized as “Anti-American, Anti-Christian, Anti-Sem[i]tic, and just plain filthy,” be removed from high school and junior high school libraries. Respondent students then brought this action for declaratory and injunctive relief. . . alleging that the Board’s actions had denied respondents their rights under the First Amendment.”

The US Supreme Court ruled in favor of the respondents.

Justice Brennan wrote the decision, joined by Justices Marshall and Stevens. The Court went straight to the heart of the matter.

The following, applicable to SB 13, was included at the start of the decision:

“Petitioners possess significant discretion to determine the content of their school libraries, but that discretion may not be exercised in a narrowly partisan or political manner. Whether petitioner’s removal of books from libraries denied respondents their First Amendment rights depends upon the motivation behind petitioner’s actions. Local school boards may not remove books from school libraries simply because they dislike the ideas contained in those books and seek by their removal to “prescribe what shall be orthodox in politics, nationalism, religion, or other matters of opinion.” West Virginia Board of Education v. Barnette. . . If such an intention was the decisive factor in petitioner’s decision, then petitioners have exercised their discretion in violation of the Constitution.”

What applies to a local school board applies even more to Legislatures and state-wide Boards of Education.

It is a fact that the authors of SB 13 have exercised a narrowly partisan or political matter of opinion. It is Republican politicians and their supporters who push such legislation, not Democrats and experts in the field regarding education, library content, and psychology.

Political orthodoxy and religious opinions are frequently revealed in many of this session’s bills receiving hearings. Bills with opposing points of view are not given hearings. This indicates the true intention of Republican legislators and Republican-controlled Committees.

I STRONGLY OPPOSE SB 13.

Please, kill this unconstitutional, partisan bill in Committee.

Respectfully, Chris J Donofrio

Sylvia Coulson

self- Dietitian

Waxahachie, TX

I support this bill. I found pornography in our local library and had to fight book by book to have it removed. The board was appalled by the books we were exposing children to. Students must be protected.

Sharon Tryon
Self
Waxahachie, TX

I approve of this bill

Sara Thompson
Self, school librarian
Del Valle, TX

As a school librarian with 21 years of teaching experience in Texas, book choices for a particular school should be chosen by a certified librarian who has taught for at least two years and gotten a Masters of Information and works directly with the children of the school. They are well-trained in information studies. Only people with these credentials should be allowed to make these decisions for schools. Parents and other community members may not have the best interests of ALL students in mind. Parents should absolutely be able to decide what their children are reading, but they should not be allowed to tell other parents what their children are allowed to read. Librarians have the best interests of all of their students in mind and are knowledgeable and experienced in choosing books for their patrons.

Dorothy Smith
Self
Nacogdoches, TX

Please support SB13 which strengthens the Reader Act SB 13 brings clarity and structure to the Library review process and defines unacceptable content it sets standards for parental participation SB13 address the issue of inappropriate books in and entering our schools Please move SB13 out of committee to the floor for a vote
Sincerely Dorothy C Smith Nacogdoches

Nancy Ruff
Self
Jonestown, TX

I oppose this bill. This bill is just another way trying to limit freedom of and silence voices that are not in lock step with the current administration's policy. So; NO.

Tracy Knudsen
Self
Fredericksburg, TX

Please note I am in favor of SB 13. Please vote yes for SB 13
Thank you

Carolyn Lux
Self
Fredericksburg, TX

Please vote in the affirmative and move this bill out of committee. It is essential to protect our kids from sexualization and exposure to inappropriate content in library materials. Thank you.

Caryn Moore
Self
Waxahachie, TX

I SUPPORT this bill SB13!

Elaine Branagh

Self/retired

Austin, TX

Oppose! I suggest that the committee members read "Fahrenheit 451" as a wise English teacher once had me do when I was caught reading during class!

Librarians are paid professionals and as such are educated in determining age appropriate literature. I am tired of our and our children's opportunity to learn be dictated by the fears and narrow mindedness of the few. Let each parent decide what is appropriate for their own child to read! Leave it to the professional librarians to ensure that a wide and varied range of material is available from which to make that choice!

Tina Curry

Self

Fredericksburg, TX

I am in FAVOR of passing SB 13. Please remove sexually explicit, vulgar or other harmful materials out of public school libraries.

Elizabeth Switek

self

Austin, TX

Please vote no on SB13. This bill will place undue harm on school districts and school librarians and will eventually mean that few new books are purchased for schools, which only continues the downward slide of student literacy in Texas. I am a certified HS librarian and previously ran a k-8 library for 15 years so I have placed hundreds of book orders in my 20+ year career and have had thousands of students who have been excited to get the next book in a series or just a new book that excites them. Book orders will languish as this bill requires that they now have to be posted for 30 days on a website, then go before an extremely small committee of parents, who let's face it, will likely be parents of elementary school age children because that's the bulk of volunteers, and this committee may not be meeting for several months, then once my book order makes it out of that committee then it will have to wait to get on the school board's agenda to be voted on yet again. My school district has nearly 120 schools with each librarian placing multiple book order throughout the year. The very idea that a few parents will meet twice a year for a grand total of two hours to authentically review hundreds of book orders is preposterous. I spend months compiling each of my book orders. We have a district collection development policy that guides my purchases but I am also purchasing for my very unique campus, we are the magnet and offer essentially only AP classes. My district also has an IB campus, a fine arts campus, a medical arts campus, an all-girls campus: each of these high school librarians places very different book orders and ones specific to their curriculum, student populations, and teaching staff. There is no way a small group of parents who have no knowledge of these campuses can make any sort of educated decisions or judgements on the books that I purchase for my campus. They will either rubber stamp our orders or hold them up in perpetuity while they re-do the work we have already done in reading reviews, checking our catalogs, etc. In both cases: what they are doing is either unnecessary or redundant and wasteful of my time and my master's degree.

I have no issue with school districts having a collection development plan in place: you already passed HB900 two years ago which set up the requirements for that so this law is not needed to duplicate that. I also don't really have a problem with requiring an OPAC to send emails to parents with what book has been checked out and when it's due. Not all OPACs can do this so this will cause an inordinate amount of effort for an elementary librarian in particular who is on a fixed schedule with 6+ classes of 30+ kids visiting a day, with most students checking out two books apiece. Librarians in small districts or charters do not have circulation systems that can mail merge and send this info to parents so it will mean hours of extra work. Please vote NO.

Beverly Gatlin

Self

Italy, TX

Please support this Bill.

Ronnie Gatlin

Self

Italy, TX

Please support this Bill.

Mary Lewis

Self

Plano, TX

Please oppose this bill. A panel of politically appointed people should not have the authority to dictate what books all students have access to. Please vote no if this comes up for vote.

Vickie Dillow

Self

Waxahachie, TX

Please vote YES to bring clarity, transparency, accountability and oversight for inappropriate content to HB900. This is so necessary to continue to refine good legislation.

Michele Wallace, Mrs.

Self

Waxahachie, TX

I support this bill

Barbara Franklin

Moms for Liberty

Fredericksburg, TX

Please get this bill out of committee!

Lisa Kruger

self; retires

Point, TX

SB 13 brings much-needed clarity and structure to the library review process. It defines what content is unacceptable, sets consistent standards for enforcement, and ensures parents are part of the conversation. SB 13 also addresses the ongoing issue of inappropriate books entering our schools, providing necessary safeguards to stop this flow of inappropriate material.

Please help move SB 13 out of committee and onto the House floor for a vote. Texas families are depending on it.

Rocky Kruger

Self; retired

Point, TX

SB 13 brings much-needed clarity and structure to the library review process. It defines what content is unacceptable, sets consistent standards for enforcement, and ensures parents are part of the conversation. SB 13 also addresses the ongoing issue of inappropriate books entering our schools, providing necessary safeguards to stop this flow of inappropriate material.

Please help move SB 13 out of committee and onto the House floor for a vote. Texas families are depending on it.

Maggie Wrijght

Self. Retired

Burleson, TX

I support SB13

Please move SB1: out of committee to the floor for a vote Texans depend on this!

Karen Santhanam

Self

Cedar Park, TX

I oppose SB 13. I have been a bug library user since being a kid and I don't think it's right for a small group of small minded individuals to limit library resources from our kids. We need free speech and free expression for all our students. Vote NO on SB 13! Let kids explore, learn and ask questions!

Andra Haney

CKKC, self

Fair Oaks Ranch, TX

I wholeheartedly support SB 13 and urge you to support it, too. This is for the sake of our children all across Texas. Please vote for SB 13.

Steven Horwitz

Self

Rockwall, TX

The READER Act has failed to protect our kids. How can parents not be part of the decision process? Have you not seen these books?

Please help move SB 13 out of committee and onto the House floor.

Marilyn Harris

self - Retired

Sanger, TX

Thank you for supporting this extremely important bill to protect our children from adult XXX library material. This policing is necessary to make sure the school library is free from adult materials! It is ridiculous that this is even an issue. The materials we are talking about belong in ADULT XXX bookstores ONLY! What has happened to our country?

This should be a No brainer to pass.

Janine Chapa

Self

Georgetown, TX

I support SB13 and pray that this bill is passed. We must stop the filth in our schools, school libraries and any other learning environment. Thank you for this bill Senator Paxton and it's a crying shame a bill such as this is necessary!

Wanda Ulrey

self retired

Victoria, TX

Support SB 13 to protect Texas children from illicit material/books.

Allison Craig
self, college professor
Fort Worth, TX

As a parent, educator, and voter, and as a school library supporter, I am asking you to oppose this bill because it would give a few politically appointed parents decision making power over what books all students in a community have access to. This is not "parental rights"; rather, it is state control over my family's access to library materials selected by experts (librarians) with the appropriate training to make these decisions. I would like my district to focus on improving math and reading scores instead of worrying about controlling library books, taking time and energy on our campuses away from most parents' priorities for their children's education. In 2023, Texas passed HB 900- a school library bill- that school districts are still working to figure out and implement--we don't need to complicate their lives further to score more political points for far-right extremists. This bill is unnecessary, poorly thought out, and damaging to my children's education.

Toni Fabry
Self/Retired Nurse
Tyler, TX

I strongly support SB 13 as it will strengthen and give clarity to HB 900 (passed during the 88th) by establishing clear and objective content standards for identifying what violates state policy. HB 900 was intended to remove sexually explicit , pervasively vulgar, age-inappropriate materials from Texas School Libraries but did not have complete guidelines. SB 13 Is the critical fix to HB 900 . Please pass this Bill out of Committee and on to the House Floor for consideration. Thank You!

Minerva Simpson
Self
Harlingen, TX

It's time to take our schools back from the hands of adults who are actively participating in ripping the innocence of our children by exposing them to the filth in these books. Our children are already bombarded by the sexualization of cartoon characters and social media. While as parents we actively try to protect them from media, they are in the hands of school staff and material 9 months out the year for 7-8 hours 5 days a week. And there's also summer school for some. Stand up and vote for this bill. Thank you.

Jeneria Lewis, Honorable
Myself as a voter
Bayview, TX

Children have been subjected too long to inappropriate materials. Fight for all children and pass SB13.

Gretchen Pierce
self, stay-at-home mom
Austin, TX

I am a parent to two young children, a 2nd-grader in public school and a soon-to-be kindergartener, and I am opposed to this bill. My son loves going to the library at school, and I am concerned about the effect this bill would have on his school's library catalog. The arduous process for purchasing new books could result in hardly any new books being added, and could prevent innocent and worthy books from being approved. I am also concerned that this bill could prevent English teachers from being able to teach important works of literature. We have many important issues that we should focus on in our school districts, but controlling books is not one of them. Also, Texas already passed HB 900, a school library bill, and we don't need another one. Please do not pass SB 13 out of committee.

Nancy Stevens
Self
Fredericksburg, TX

I strongly support SB 13 yo protect our children from pornographic books in the libraries!

Heidi Bray

self

Austin, TX

I oppose this bill. What is mentally wrong with Paxton

Alejandro Gauna, Mr.

Self

Tyler, TX

Please support SB13. It's time Texas protect children. As a father of 2 daughters it's important we protect the literature our kids see in our libraries.

Sheryl Hazelwood, Mrs.

Self - retired

Tyler, TX

SB13 is needed to clarify HB900 which was passed last legislative session. It also establishes parent led advisory councils for school libraries and establishes what is acceptable and unacceptable. It also ensures accountability for libraries and review boards. Please use your leadership to advance this bill and get it passed this legislative session. Thanks for your support!

Jennifer Kranzman

Republican Women of Gregg County Pres and grandmother who cares

Longview, TX

I have been involved 1st hand in monitoring x rated material, glorifying drug use and normalizing suicide to our children in school. One high school had 111 grossly inappropriate books in their school unknown to superintendent even though shared with the assistant superintendent. They did not view it as a great concern. We need SB 13 passed to weed out inappropriate book for young developing minds. Let them be kids and not expose them to adult only material.

Benjamin Zavala

Self

El Paso, TX

This bill seems too politically motivated to actually be helpful to the state long-term. Barring books because of hurtful, or in this case "woke" agenda, does nothing to help increase education for the state. All this bill does is have a few people stamping approved on what they deem correct and in the end all that will be left approved is some cliff notes version of the Bible.

Laci McGee, Mrs

Self

Denton, TX

Please vote against SB 13. Children, everyone, needs access to books that allow them to learn about a vast array of topics and these topics should not be limited by advisory councils with their own agendas.

Katrina Connor

self

Plano, TX

As a reader and active library supporter, I am asking you to oppose this bill because it would give a few politically appointed parents decision making power over what books all students in a community have access to. I would like my district to focus on improving math and reading scores instead of worrying about controlling library books. Also, Texas already passed HB 900- a school library bill- that school districts are still working to figure out and implement- so we don't need another one. Please ask the Representative to vote "no" on SB 13 if it comes up for a committee vote. Thank you.

Anne Keehnen
Self
Nacogdoches, TX

I am a retired teacher, parent and grandparent Texas students and we do not want this bill for our children. We don't need a politically appointed advisory committee to tell us what books our children can't read. We have highly educated professional teachers and librarians who will do a much better job. In addition as parents we can talk to our own kids about what books we want them to read and keep the government out of this issue. This is a very bad bill and nobody In Texas wants it.

Christopher Everard
Self
Austin, TX

Hi, my name is Chris Everard and I'm writing in regards to SB13, the Library Advisory Committee bill. As a Texan voter and school library supporter, I am asking you to oppose this bill because it would give a few politically appointed parents decision making power over what books all students in a community have access to. I would like my district to focus on improving math and reading scores instead of worrying about controlling library books. Also, Texas already passed HB 900- a school library bill- that school districts are still working to figure out and implement- so we don't need another one. Please vote no on SB 13. Thank you.

Joy Welch
self- Librarian
Schertz, TX

I am against this bill because it would give a few politically appointed parents decision-making power over what books all students in a community have access to. I would like my district to focus on improving math and reading scores instead of worrying about controlling library books. Also, Texas already passed HB 900- a school library bill- that school districts are still working to figure out and implement- so we don't need another one. Thank you.

Maria Chapa
Self
Denton, TX

As a Texan and school library supporter, I am asking you to oppose this bill because it would give a few politically appointed parents decision making power over what books all students in a community have access to. I would like my district to focus on improving math and reading scores instead of worrying about controlling library books. Also, Texas already passed HB 900- a school library bill- that school districts are still working to figure out and implement- so we don't need another one. Please ask the Representative to vote "no" on SB 13 if it comes up for a committee vote. Thank you

Jillian Hawkins, Mrs.
self
Plano, TX

This bill that has the potential to devastate our public school libraries by introducing new overly-broad categories of prohibited books and placing purchasing and reconsideration oversight into the hands of a few politically appointed community member volunteers. A tenet of America is FREEDOM and we need the freedom to let our children read widely. Parents, and not the government, should be responsible for guiding children's reading. As a life-long reader, I have learned so much empathy, compassion and culture through reading broadly and diversely. Taking away books from children, is literally taking away education and freedom. Please don't pass SB 13.

Charla Hollingsworth

self

SUGAR LAND, TX

I am writing today as your constituent to stand in opposition to Senate Bill 13 in Texas. SB13 not only infringes on my rights as a taxpayer, but it is also an overreach of governmental power. It takes away individual freedoms from parents, students, community members, and school board trustees to review and regulate school library materials and instead gives the authority to a small group of politically appointed School Library Advisory Council members.

These members would likely not be trained library professionals or teachers who are qualified to make library curation decisions. In fact, SB13 does not even require all council members to have children enrolled in the public school system the committee allegedly represents. Library curation and collection development decisions should be left to trained librarians with input from a variety of local stakeholders.

Under SB13, School Library Advisory Councils would have the power to remove library materials from school libraries that are inconsistent with “community values.” The values of certain community members should not be prioritized above others. For these reasons, I ask that you keep politics out of our schools by strongly opposing SB13 in Texas.

In 2022, Carroll ISD adopted a school library materials policy that, like SB13, requires a 30-day review period and board approval for all library purchases. The result was that the process for purchasing library books became so arduous that the district largely stopped buying new books.

In 2020-2021, Carroll ISD ordered 5077 books for its intermediate, middle, high, and senior high schools. The district paused library purchases in early 2022 while it developed its new policy, which was approved in July of that year. Under its new policy, Carroll ISD ordered just 673 books for the same schools for both the 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 school years combined. Notably, for at least two school years, librarians ordered zero new books for Southlake Carroll Senior HS.

SB13 reflects a genuine and understandable desire, shared by many Texans—including u me—to protect young people from harmful and age-inappropriate material. And it contains measures that could benefit both parents and Texas public schools by increasing transparency on behalf of local school districts and fostering collaboration between schools and the parents whose children they serve.

But SB13 also contains elements that, if written into law, will devastate Texas school libraries and English classes, ultimately harming all children by setting back efforts to educate students in both literacy skills and the joy of reading.

As a parent of Texas public school students, I urge lawmakers to vote against any legislation, including SB13, that implements arduous processes for purchasing books for school libraries and removes books from schools based on overbroad content designations. I ask you to allow kids to read freely, and to enjoy the benefits of good libraries and literacy instruction.

Mag Franzoni, Ms

Self

Spring, TX

I urge you to vote on this awful bill

Penny Bradshaw

Self

The Woodlands, TX

On Tuesday (5/6/25), the House Public Education Committee will consider SB 13, the Senate Bill that establishes "Library Advisory Councils" to evaluate (i.e. ban) books in public schools. I assert that you should BAN SB 13 - NOT BOOKS!!!

SB 13 will create a new burden for school districts by requiring them to organize advisory groups which will allow a small group of parent volunteers to choose books, instead of trusting the expertise of professionally trained librarians. A small group of parents should NOT be allowed to make decisions for ALL parents about which library books are appropriate for school libraries.

Parents should have the opportunity to choose books FOR THEIR OWN CHILDREN TO READ AND NOT BE CHOSEN BY A GROUP OF PARENT VOLUNTEERS. LIBRARIANS should be the ones who are entrusted with curating books that are most age-appropriate for school libraries.

This is nothing more than government overreach and encroachment on parental rights.

PLEASE VOTE NO ON SB 13!

Audrey Webb

Self

Lockney, TX

OPPOSE!! Book bans are fascist! Say NO to fascism in our great state!

Brooke King

Self

Humble, TX

I am a Texas School Librarian and I am opposed to SB 13 for the following reasons.

1. Parental access to catalogs and student records is fine; most districts already have a process in place, but parents do not want a notification every time their child checks out a new book.
2. HB900 (The READER act) addresses collection development and reconsideration standards, and has only been in place for a little over a year. We need to give it a chance before we go changing things. In our district, it is already showing progress because we have not had any more reconsideration challenges this year.
3. The timeline for purchasing materials will become way too burdensome with a Library Advisory Committee having to approve everything after it is publicly shown for 30 days, especially when they are only required to meet twice a year. Just this school year, I have made 32 purchases of 671 books. I purchase books at the point of need, monthly for my book clubs, and when new books come out in a series and the kids are excited. It would make this process nearly impossible with the restrictions in SB 13.

Thank you for your time and consideration of these concerns.

Pam Slocomb

Self retired

Spring, TX

SB 13 Librarians in Texas are required to have a valid K-12 teaching certificate, 2 years of classroom teaching experience, and a master's degree from an accredited university and pass the Texas School Librarian Certification exam. Parent volunteers are not equipped to choose books for Texas schools. Vote NO on SB13

Susan Watkins

Self

The Woodlands, TX

Vote no on HB 13. We have trained professional librarians who understand how to curate and pick developmentally appropriate books for children. With a parental advisory group, they may have a political or cultural bias that does not include the many children from different backgrounds. Let parents choose books for their own children but let trained professionals determine the library collection for their own schools.

Vote NO on SB 13!

Mollie Wright

Self - Public School English Teacher

GARLAND, TX

I am writing today as a public school English teacher and education advocate to stand in opposition to Senate Bill 13 in Texas. I am asking you to oppose this bill because it would give a few politically appointed citizens disproportionate decision-making power over which books all students in a community can access. Under SB 13, School Library Advisory Councils would have the power to remove materials from school libraries that are inconsistent with "community values." This takes away individual freedoms from parents, students, community members, and school board trustees to review and regulate school library materials. The values of certain community members should not be prioritized above others, especially because there is no requirement that these members have any training or qualifications to make library curation decisions. In fact, SB 13 does not even require all council members to have children enrolled in the public school system the committee allegedly represents. Library curation and collection development decisions should be left to trained librarians with input from a variety of local stakeholders who are authentic members of the community. Individual decisions for what a child reads should, as always, be left to that child's parents or guardians, not decided for the family by a stranger with no qualifications or rights pertaining to that child. Additionally, Texas already passed school library bill HB 900, and school districts are still working on appropriate implementation. It is an inefficient overreach to pass an additional school library bill before this one has been fully implemented. For these reasons, I ask that you keep politics out of our schools by strongly opposing SB 13 in Texas.

Kendall McCurdy

self/retired school librarian

Graham, TX

The provisions of SB13 will make it exceedingly difficult for school libraries to actually get books in the hands of students. Librarians already are educated (with targeted classes) on selecting appropriate materials for the age groups they teach; it doesn't make sense to have untrained people approving library books or having to wait 30 days for public opinion to decide. Librarians take the time to look at professional reviews of the books, look at what the library already has available, and decide on what is needed. This takes a lot of time; they are performing their other duties as well. It could take me a month or more to search and review books for new purchases, then to add on board approval and public approval could be several more months. After the actual ordering, then you wait weeks for the books to arrive, process them along with other duties and finally students can check out the books after months of procedure. Most districts already have procedures in place to take away books that are deemed inappropriate; parents have the choice to say what kind of books their own children are able to read. Not all districts have the technology to have parents notified of what their children check out as it happens; this can be a hardship to purchase the tech to be able to do that. All children and families need books that reflect their experience and the ability to see the different experiences of others. Make it easier, not harder to let the students read.

Jake Wilson
Self / CPA
Fort Worth, TX

I support SB 13 by Senator Paxton relating to a school district's library materials and catalog, the creation of local school library advisory councils, and parental rights regarding public school library catalogs and access by the parent's child to library materials.

Thank You to all the legislators supporting SB 13!

Jake Wilson
Fort Worth, TX
SD9 and HD91

Dede Fox
Dede Fox-self, writer
The Woodlands, TX

VOTE NO to SB 13. We should support and trust professionally trained librarians to choose books for school libraries. I was one for 18 years in two intermediate schools .I had a Parent Section for books to be read only if parents pre-approved the reading of the book (with a strong suggestions parents read the book too). Parents always had the final say. No challenges. Because the government kept its nose out of our business as professionals working with parents in public schools.

Parents should make the decisions about library books for THEIR OWN children, but not for ALL children.

Creating Parent Advisory Councils is burdensome for school districts and an example of government overreach.

Sarah Yockey
Self - Educator
Houston, TX

As an English teacher and educator, I think access to the library is the MOST critical thing we can do in Texas to improve reading levels and literacy. I oppose this bill because it sets up many barriers for libraries. For example, I have never worked in a school big enough to afford a digital book management system. Those systems are so expensive that it is cost prohibitive for a school under 500 to purchase for their small library collections. Without that (and without a full time librarian as neither school could afford that either), who will be burdened to send an email notification to parents for each checked out item? Sure, a large public library with an automated system can execute that, but for a small school library the likely result of complying with these regulations is that no books can be checked out. Similarly, the procurement processes outlined add to an already existing time and energy burden of selecting new books to request, finding the funding, processing the books. In small places, over regulation like this exceeds the staffing capacity of schools. There simply will be no new books purchased, and in 15 years the children will not be reading because the collection is out of date. I worked at a school like that, and when one librarian finally put in the energy to audit the catalog, over 50% of the books were so old and out of date that almost the entire non-fiction section had to be discarded (imagine if the only book you have about technology was written in 1992). School librarians are incredible professionals with training in how to craft collections that honor patron needs and values, and I believe we can trust them to present a reasonable and varied collection. Libraries in schools and librarians are already resource-limited in a time when they are one of our most valuable resources. I suggest alternative legislation directing funding to schools to ensure that every school has a library, librarian, and at least 20-25 books per pupil as a ratio. We need to worry more about why our students are not reading than we do about 1-2 books in a library that someone might object to a paragraph in. I oppose the bill because compliance with it will reduce library access.

Linda Lichtman
Self
The Woodlands, TX
Please vote no SB 13

Kathryn Gaston

self

The Woodlands, TX

As an educator and parent of four, I urge the committee not to advance this bill. We should trust professionally trained librarians to select appropriate and diverse materials for school libraries. These experts are trained to curate collections that support education, foster curiosity, and reflect a wide range of perspectives.

Parents have the right to guide what their own children read, but they should not impose those choices on all students. Respecting individual family values is important, but that respect must be balanced with the rights of other families to make their own choices.

Mandating Parent Advisory Councils for book selection is an unnecessary burden on school districts and an example of government overreach.

LAURA SMITH

self retired teacher

THE WOODLANDS, TX

Please vote NO on SB13. It speaks to extreme governmental over reach. Let trained librarians do their job and select appropriate books. I do not want OTHER parents selecting books for me and my children.

Sylvia Campbell

self

The Woodlands, TX

Dear Committee Members,

This bill is dangerous, because it allows a small group of people to select what books are appropriate/inappropriate for all children in the school. I believe it is the right of a parent to choose what is appropriate for their own children, but not limit books for other children. School library book selection should be done by TRAINED, EXPERIENCED LIBRARIANS, WHO ARE EQUIPPED TO CURATE LIBRARY OPTIONS that are appropriate for different ages of children. If a parent wants to limit the ability of their child to access certain books, that is certainly their right. But letting them make that decision for other families is infringing on their rights. This is government overreach. I urge you to oppose this SB 13.

Respectfully,

Sylvia Campbell

Craig Campbell

Retired self

Austin, TX

Let school districts handle this rather than creating a bureaucracy of imposing red tape to hinder local activities. You aren't smart enough to impose your will.

Cindy Fountain
Self/ Retail Merchandiser
Cleburne, TX

I Oppose SB 13 and urge the committee to vote against it. In what part of Texas are this bill's authors and supporters living, in which the parent doesn't already have the say in what library books their children can read? If the parent has the ultimate say, and books won't be pulled, then why is a parent advisory council needed? Which parents get to be on this advisory council? How many members? What if they can't agree on pulling a book, which already creates a conflict on not giving a parent the ultimate say, but whatever. This seems like a burdensome process for both librarians and parents. If I don't want my child to read certain library books, I'll let the librarian or teacher know that my child is not allowed to check out that book. Send me a list of the library catalog, and put that responsibility on me, which is where it should be.

Thank you,
Cindy Fountain
Cleburne, TX 76033

Anthony Elmo
Retired
Fort Worth, TX

terrible bill. leave librarians alone. lets kids read what they want.

Mattie B
Self - Bookseller
Austin, TX

Honorable members of the House Public Education Committee,

I am a Texan concerned with the ongoing attacks on public education and the First Amendment in our state, and I want you to let SB 13 die in committee.

SB 13 creates two new and unconstitutional categories for censorship: vaguely defined "patently offensive" content, without constitutional safeguards; and material containing profanity, again without constitutional safeguards.

It will also make it harder for school libraries to acquire any books at all, regardless of content, by inserting government bureaucracy into the book acquisition process.

We should be making it easier for Texas children to get books, not harder. We should be empowering local schools, parents, and communities to make their own decisions about books, not giving that power to the state government. Mandating these committees will worsen reading outcomes for Texas students by creating an expensive and unnecessary process.

Please vote no on SB 13. This bill should not leave committee.

Dianna Lora
self
Cedar Park, TX

My name is Dianna Lora, and I am a proud Texan and resident of Cedar Park preparing to open a small, independent bookstore and game space called The Secret Lantern Books & Games. As someone committed to building a welcoming, inclusive space for readers and families in my community, I'm writing to urge you to oppose Senate Bill 13 (SB 13) — a bill that represents a clear and dangerous attack on the First Amendment, education, and the future of small businesses like mine.

SB 13 introduces vague and unconstitutional standards for book censorship in public schools, such as banning works with “grossly offensive language” or undefined “patently offensive content.” These are alarmingly subjective terms with no constitutional safeguards. What's more, the bill would make it harder for school libraries to acquire books at all — chilling the very access to literature that helps students grow, learn, and become critical thinkers.

This is not just a political or legal concern — it's personal. I am days away from finalizing plans to open a bookstore in this state. And yet, legislation like SB 13 makes me question whether Texas is still a place where independent bookstores, educators, and students can thrive. If this bill moves forward, I will seriously reconsider whether I can open my business here. I do not want to relocate — I want to invest in Texas — but I cannot build a future in a place where literature is under siege and my business model is politicized.

Books like *The Catcher in the Rye*, *Beloved*, and *The Color Purple* have shaped generations. Are we really prepared to tell a college-bound 17-year-old they can't read these in a Texas classroom or find them in a school library?

I urge you: please let SB 13 die in committee. Don't give in to fear-based censorship. Protect the rights of students, educators, parents, and yes — small business owners like me who believe in the power of books.

Thank you for your time and service.

Patricia Jolley, Ms
Self Retired teacher
Bastrop, TX

I am a Texan concerned with the ongoing attacks on public education and the First Amendment in our state, and I want you to let SB 13 die in committee.

SB 13 creates two new and unconstitutional categories for censorship: vaguely defined “patently offensive” content, without constitutional safeguards; and material containing profanity, again without constitutional safeguards.

It will also make it harder for school libraries to acquire any books at all, regardless of content, by inserting government bureaucracy into the book acquisition process.

We should be making it easier for Texas children to get books, not harder. We should be empowering local schools, parents, and communities to make their own decisions about books, not giving that power to the state government. Mandating these committees will worsen reading outcomes for Texas students by creating an expensive and unnecessary process.

Please vote no on SB 13. This bill should not leave committee.

Claudia Maceo
Self
San Antonio, TX

Honorable members of the House Public Education Committee,

I am a Texan concerned with the ongoing attacks on public education and the First Amendment in our state, and I want you to let SB 13 die in committee.

SB 13 creates two new and unconstitutional categories for censorship: vaguely defined “patently offensive” content, without constitutional safeguards; and material containing profanity, again without constitutional safeguards.

It will also make it harder for school libraries to acquire any books at all, regardless of content, by inserting government bureaucracy into the book acquisition process.

We should be making it easier for Texas children to get books, not harder. We should be empowering local schools, parents, and communities to make their own decisions about books, not giving that power to the state government. Mandating these committees will worsen reading outcomes for Texas students by creating an expensive and unnecessary process.

Please vote no on SB 13. This bill should not leave committee.

Amanda Maslonka
Self. Librarian
Houston, TX

Dear Representative Paxton

I am Amanda Maslonka and I am a Texas Parent and Librarian . I am contacting you to share my concerns about SB 13 which will be considered by the House Public Education Committee on May 6, 2025.

SB 13 requires Texas school boards to approve all library materials before an order may be placed. Library orders must be posted for public comment for 30 days before approval. And school districts must establish Local School Library Advisory Councils, comprised of at least five parents appointed by school board members.

The political appointees on the Council will determine which library books are appropriate for each grade and recommend the removal of any books deemed to be harmful or inconsistent with community values. They also have the final say in whether or not a book should remain in the school library collection.

School districts purchase hundreds, if not thousands, of library materials and orders are placed several times throughout the school year. For example, one large Texas school district placed 605 library orders from September - February, a total of 60,509 new books.

How will a small council manage to review those purchase orders in a timely manner?

Adding multiple levels of review to the purchasing process creates significant barriers to a district’s ability to purchase essential library materials and will negatively impact student learning.

Please do not limit our school libraries' ability to support literacy and engage students in reading.

Thank you,
First Name Last Name

Linda Evans, Ms
Self-retired
Conroe, TX

Vote No on SB 13! This bill will create a new burden for school districts by requiring them to organize advisory groups, and it will allow a small group parent volunteers to choose books, instead of trusting the expertise of professionally trained librarians. A small group of parents will be making decisions for ALL parents about which library books are appropriate. This is government overreach - parents should choose books for their own children, not other people’s children, and LIBRARIANS should be trusted to curate books that are most age-appropriate for school libraries. Our school districts have excellent professional librarians. Let them do their job! Vote NO SB 13

Joni Harris
self - school librarian
Garland, TX

I am writing to express my strong opposition to Senate Bill 13. As an experienced educator, parent, and voter in Texas, I am deeply concerned about the harmful impact this bill would have on Texas students, school libraries, and the professionals who work every day to support literacy and learning.

SB 13 proposes several changes that appear to increase transparency but, in reality, would create significant and unnecessary barriers to the timely purchase and access of essential library materials:

Requiring a 30-day public comment period before any library purchase can be finalized is unrealistic. Texas school districts regularly purchase hundreds or even thousands of books throughout the school year. For example, one large Texas district placed 605 library orders totaling 60,509 titles between September and February. Requiring each of these purchases to be posted for public comment would result in severe delays and an unmanageable burden on staff.

Mandating the removal of materials under reconsideration until a final decision is made would allow a single complaint to suppress access to a resource for all students—regardless of the educational value or student demand. This undermines the professional judgment of trained librarians and educators, and deprives students of access to materials they may need for learning, personal growth, or connection.

Establishing local School Library Advisory Councils appointed by school boards to review purchases raises concerns about politicizing the collection development process. Librarians already follow district policies, curriculum standards, and professional guidelines. The addition of multiple layers of approval creates delays and the potential for bias. More importantly, it shifts decision-making from qualified professionals to a small group that may not represent the diverse needs of an entire school community.

The ability of school libraries to foster literacy, promote intellectual freedom, and serve all students equitably depends on professional expertise and timely access to materials. SB 13 would compromise that.

Parents already have the right to guide their own children's reading choices. That right should not extend to allowing a small group of individuals to limit access for every student.

Please support school librarians, educators, and our students. Oppose SB 13.

Teri Harris

Elysian Fields I.S.D. / Middle School

Elysian Fields, TX

I have been employed in a small, rural public school library for 25 years. It is both a challenging and rewarding job. I work very diligently to ensure that the material selected for our library is of educational value, age appropriate, and represents the values of our small, conservative community. Our teachers, administrators, students and parents are part of that selection process by varying degrees, albeit not in the sense that we have a formal selection committee. The selection process is based on need: adding to existing book series; teacher, student, and sometimes parent requests; books that support classroom curriculum (TEKS) and research projects; updated material for library holdings that are obsolete; additions to reflect societal, medical and technological advancements, books for reading enjoyment, and so on. It is a very involved but necessary process. The most time consuming part of this process involves selecting new fiction. Our community, as I said, is very conservative. Books containing explicit sexual content, sexually deviant content, and other inappropriate content are not a part of our school library. For us, this standard existed before HB 900. HB 900 also requires that a school library database be available online for public view. Again, our database is already visible online to anyone who wishes to view it. The fundamentals of what SB 13 is trying to achieve are already in place, that being ensuring that libraries are transparent, and children are protected from that which is harmful. If HB 900 already offers those protective measures, why then, do we need SB 13? Isn't it redundant? SB13 would require each school to form a book selection committee consisting of at least five members. In my small, rural community, we would struggle to find that number people willing to serve on such a committee. The book/material selection process is long and involved. It takes three to four weeks of searching, researching, checking content, etc., to complete a book order for my school each year. I cannot imagine how long it would take a committee - if I could even find people to serve on it - to analyze, read reviews, discuss and approve all potential purchases. No one would volunteer for such an undertaking, or if they did, they wouldn't do it twice. Receiving an email every time your child checks out a book? Even though sexually explicit content is not available, as per HB 900, in the library? I cannot see the value of this bill, but I can see the harm, the greatest of which is the difficulty in providing our children with new reading material to educate, instruct, and foster a love of reading. My school and community already partner together to provide the very best for our children. If anything, having book vendors disclose content would go a long way toward helping librarians to make informed decisions. I ask that you please consider this perspective during the decision making process. Thank you.

Victoria Blandino

Self / Stay-at-Home Mom

Lewisville, TX

As a mother and former Texas teacher, I am extremely troubled by the existence of SB13. It takes away individual freedoms from parents, students, community members, and school board trustees to regulate school library materials and instead gives this authority to a small group of politically appointed School Library Advisory Council members. It is incredibly disheartening to see my rights as a parent and my children's rights as individuals be steadily eroded by governmental overreach in Texas. A small group of political appointees on a committee will never be able to anticipate and address the literacy needs of an entire school district. This is a job best left to educators and librarians, in conjunction with parents, stakeholders, and school board members. As a former teacher, I would ask the state legislature to stop creating bills based on highly politicized, inflammatory nonsense, and instead focus on properly supporting our Texas public schools. As a mother, I would assure lawmakers that I do not need any help supervising my children's learning. What my children read will be decided between my children, my husband, myself, and my children's teachers. Your opinions, and the opinions of some random committee members, are wholly irrelevant and unwelcome.

Laura Weaver

self/retired

The Woodlands, TX

I am writing in opposition of SB 13. As a mother and grandmother, I have always felt comfortable letting professional, trained librarians select appropriate books for our children's school libraries. SB 13 would take the decisions out of the hands of seasoned professionals and hand them to a group of untrained volunteers whose beliefs may not align with mine. SB 13 would be a huge overreach of government. I do not want a group of strangers deciding what books are appropriate. Parents should make decisions about what their own children read, not what other people's children have access to. In addition, this would be a very burdensome system for local school districts. Read the room!!! There was massive opposition to this bill in its hearing. I join many others around the state in opposing SB 13 and I implore you to vote against it.

Katie Adams
self, library assistant
Round Rock, TX

To the members of the Public Education Committee,

My name is Katie Adams, and I live in House District 52. I am a native Texan, and attended public school from kindergarten through high school in Denton ISD. My child is a student in Round Rock ISD, where I work as a part time library assistant, and I have spent several years volunteering at school libraries in Austin ISD. I tell you all of this so that you know what an important role libraries, especially school libraries, have played in my life and in the life of my family, and so that you know why I am asking you to vote against SB 13.

As an elementary school student, reading was my favorite thing about school, making the school library one of my favorite places in the whole world. I can remember the magic of entering the doors each week to find two smiling librarians there to help us learn new skills, read to us, and suggest the best books for each student based on what they wanted to read. Our library team worked hard to make that feeling possible, and their work is something that I both cherish and try to emulate in my own library work. School libraries should be places of joy and discovery, where students and staff can go to read what they love and find resources to support classroom learning. SB 13 would make it incredibly challenging for school librarians to create this kind of environment by bringing unnecessary delays and hurdles to the book purchasing process, dismissing the valuable experience and collection development skills of school librarians, and replacing fair, common-sense policies with policies that favor those who would seek to limit children's access to materials that they personally do not agree with.

This bill limits the ability of school librarians to respond to their school community and to make timely purchases that meet student and teacher wants and needs. If a student was facing a difficult situation at home and a teacher or school counselor wanted to offer them a book to read that could help, instead of using current collection development guidelines to find something just right quickly, the librarian would have to identify a title, add it to their list for approval, wait for the next meeting to approve books, then order the book. The moment that could have connected a student to the right book at the right time would be lost. Teachers who want to expand their students' learning, students excited to read the next book in a series, and families of students hoping to find a book in their home language will all suffer from this bill if it becomes law. Our public school communities deserve school libraries overseen by school librarians who use their expertise and knowledge of their school communities to create libraries that feel like magical places where students can go to read, learn, and thrive.

Please support school libraries and the students, families, and teachers who rely upon them by voting no on SB 13. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Jolie Jennings
self, school librarian
Liberty Hill, TX

As a Texas school librarian, I oppose SB 13. HB 900 from the previous legislative session already requires school districts to enact collection development policies set forth by the Texas State Library and Archives Commission, including public access to school library catalogs and reconsideration policies for parents who seek to challenge a book in the library collection. In addition to being redundant, SB 13 would significantly hinder librarians' ability to purchase books in a timely manner. The district where I work has enacted a public comment period prior to purchasing books, and it takes two months at minimum to purchase new books. Students often ask us for the latest book in a series or a book that has recently been adapted into a movie, and we are unable to fulfill their requests for months. Books languish in closets and offices while we wait to go through the approval process. A local school library advisory council would give a small group of parents complete control over the books and materials in a school library. Most likely, these are parents with no formal training in education or library science making the decisions that we currently entrust to school librarians with Master's degrees in library science, who are certified as librarians and teachers in Texas, and have classroom teaching experience. It is very likely that this process will become so arduous that school librarians will simply stop ordering new books, which will only contribute to poor literacy outcomes.

Amber Bucklaew, Ms
self, library grad student
Denton, TX

Librarians, teachers, and school staff ARE ALREADY the local school library advisory council, they have the education, the experience, and the ability to address any and all parental concerns. This is government overreach and attempt at censorship. You do NOT have the right to dictate what is and isn't appropriate for one student versus another. Children have the right to access information appropriate for their age group (which we already determine! and have years of education and experience behind that ability) and parents are free to talk to their children. There is zero good reason for this proposal and sets a dangerous precedent that undermines everyone's, including children's, first amendment right to information and ideas.

William Gattis, Self
Self
Houston, TX

I strongly support Senator Paxton bill. The state of Texas needs to address the growing problem of sexually explicit, age inappropriate, books and materials in public Libraries. There will always be strong opposition to these bills by associations of school librarians and book seller. It is time for the Legislature to take a stand with regard to these issues that have strong negative influences on our children. And, each bill should have consequences for failure to comply. Thank you

Sherri Singley, Mrs
Self
Bulverde, TX

I agree that children should not be exposed to material that is not age appropriate. I disagree that parents should have control over what school districts provide in their libraries. Any decision making committee should comprise of mostly professionals & educators that are qualified to make these decisions. Parents can be included on the committee but should be the minority. I am a parent & grandparent who has always & is currently involved with schools in my district, Comal ISD. Parents are not qualified to make these decisions or have the ability to be impartial for every child.

Jennifer Conner
self
The Woodlands, TX

I OPPOSE this bill. I strongly urge this bill to be voted down. We should support and trust professionally trained librarians to choose books for school libraries. Parents should make the decisions about library books for THEIR OWN children, but not for ALL children. I support parents having the right to not allow their own kids to not read books, but I don't appreciate this Legislature not allowing me to choose books for MY children. Creating Parent Advisory Councils is burdensome for school districts and an example of government overreach. No to SB 13.

Roxanne Johnson, Ms
self
Austin, TX

leave the pro/con on library procedures and positioning of books to national librarians groups

Clare Gsliesu
Catholic Women's Club
Tyler, TX

Say yes to this bill. Outside forces should not pervert our children's minds.

Shannon Jungman

Slef

Sugar Land, TX

This would bar many books from libraries and put the power of choice in the hands of very few. Parents should be able to individually choose what is appropriate for their own children.

Stop trying to take away the freedom knowledge and reading in the name of protecting children. The true intent of this to push everyone to conform to a certain set of ideals, so let's just call it what it is: fascism.

Bruce Burton

self

Austin, TX

Senate Bill 13 is the critical fix to the READER Act (last session's HB 900), which was intended to remove sexually explicit, pervasively vulgar, age-inappropriate materials from school libraries. SB 13 clarifies the standards, creates consistent procedures, and ensures accountability at every level—so harmful content no longer slips through the cracks.

Alba Chocron

self

san antonio, TX

NO vote

Anita Matta

I'm representing myself

Los Fresnos, TX

In Support

Lynette Huval, Mrs.

Self

Lindale, TX

Children are innocent until they are subjected to vulgar and repulsive content that is of no educational value, and certainly no ethical value, for them at any age! Schools shall not be pushers of offensive materials in any situation whether on the federal or state level! Protect the innocence! Protect our children and their mental and physical health!

Jennifer Mobbs

Self

Tyler, TX

SB 13 needs your support! This bill protects of Texas Children with clear standards and proceeds and Accountability! A bill that give Parents a seat at the table with parent majority on advisory councils. Our Libraries need need oversight when they purchase books that a clearly inappropriate for children, they have lost our trust. Please support SB 13 by Paxton. Thank You.

Anna Meriano

Self

Houston, TX

This bill infringes on parental rights and teacher's professions by letting a few parents impose their beliefs and taste on everyone. Please oppose this unnecessarily restrictive bill, and focus on real problems rather than coddling a few loud parents who are afraid of children's stories.

Courtney Carter

Self/Educator, Nurse Practitioner, Parent, and Christian

Rowlett, TX

I oppose SB 13 as a Christian, educator, Mom, and healthcare professional in Texas. This is a blatant attempt to eliminate our right to academic freedom and religious liberty. School library materials should continue to be managed at the school district level, not the state. SB 13 will cause undue burden on Texas educators, librarians, and parents. This bill would disproportionately impact vulnerable populations in Texas public schools and hinder development of critical thinking skills in our youth. I strongly encourage you to oppose SB 13.

Lindsey Crow, Mrs

Self. Retired RN.

Austin, TX

Please oppose this bill as it is censorship and limits a child's freedom to choose. Children

Please oppose this bill as it is censorship and limits a child's freedom to chose.

Debbie Loveall

self / retired

Nash, TX

Please vote SB 13 out of Committee and Calendars to be voted on by the House. This very important piece of legislation will protect children from being exposed to inappropriate, sexually explicit books in public school libraries. Texas citizens do not want our tax dollars spent on dirty books in school libraries. Please vote to protect kids' innocence. Please vote this out of Committee ASAP. Time is running out.

javier garcia del moral
The Wild Detectives
Dallas, TX

Dear Members of the House Public Education Committee,

As a concerned Texan, I'm writing to express my deep opposition to SB 13 and to urge you to allow it to die in committee.

SB 13 introduces two vague and unconstitutional standards for censorship—labeling materials as “patently offensive” or containing profanity, without the necessary constitutional protections in place. These categories open the door to broad and subjective interpretations that threaten free expression and students’ access to diverse ideas.

In addition, the bill would impose new layers of government oversight that would significantly complicate the ability of school libraries to obtain books, regardless of their content. Rather than making it more difficult for Texas children to access reading materials, we should be reducing barriers and supporting schools in serving their communities.

Decisions about library collections should remain in the hands of local educators, families, and communities—not centralized in the state government. The mandates proposed by this bill would create costly and burdensome processes that ultimately harm students’ literacy and learning outcomes.

I urge you to oppose SB 13 and ensure it does not advance out of committee.

I am a Texan concerned with the ongoing attacks on public education and the First Amendment in our state, and I want you to let SB 13 die in committee.

SB 13 creates two new and unconstitutional categories for censorship: vaguely defined “patently offensive” content, without constitutional safeguards; and material containing profanity, again without constitutional safeguards.

It will also make it harder for school libraries to acquire any books at all, regardless of content, by inserting government bureaucracy into the book acquisition process.

We should be making it easier for Texas children to get books, not harder. We should be empowering local schools, parents, and communities to make their own decisions about books, not giving that power to the state government. Mandating these committees will worsen reading outcomes for Texas students by creating an expensive and unnecessary process.

Please vote no on SB 13. This bill should not leave committee.

Don McLeod
Self Veterinary Doctor and Ranchers
Aledo, TX

Urge respectfully to support this bill as I feel it is very important Thank you Don McLeod DVM

Ashra Londa
Self
Denton, TX

Hello! Please vote AGAINST SB 13. I am against it because it limits students' abilities to access materials to a limited number of parents' decisions, when all parents should be able to choose what their kids can read! I humbly ask our representatives to focus on raising test scores and students' welfare rather than on limiting books. Thank you for serving our state!

Roger Hall
self & We the People - Liberty in Action
Ingram, TX

Move SB 13 out of committee today! This brings clarity and structure to the library review process. Our children need this!

Diana Gonzalez
self , finance analyst
PEARLAND, TX

As a parent of two children in Texas public schools, I am against a few politically appointed parents making a choice over what books my kids and others in my community have access to. This bill takes away individual control from students, parents, and taxpayers to give to a select few., who may not have the adequate training or experience to decide which books students have access to. This is government overreach that will harm school libraries and English Language Arts education in our state.

Ally Raskin
self
Dallas, TX

I fully support this bill. There is no excuse for sexually explicit books in our schools or online libraries

Mitchell Benway
Self
Point, TX

A must pass bill.

Peggy Jeremiah
Self
McKinney, TX

I wholeheartedly support this bill allowing parents access to all school library materials and advisory councils

Laura Gallier
Self-retired CPA
Houston, TX

Oppose SB 13. I'm all for parents taking an interest in the materials their children read and for having a variety of reading materials available to meet the needs of each child and family. Banning books to "protect" children from certain ideas is dangerous. Even if a child checks out a book that concern parents, it can be a teachable moment, during which the parent explains to the child how the ideas don't align with their values. Librarians have good sense and training; they know what books are appropriate for various ages of children. Where my grandchildren go to public school, the librarian chooses/suggests the books for the children to check out, based on getting to know the child. The suppression of ideas is dangerous. Children are going to see LGBTQ+ people in the real world; does it really make sense for them to not see them in books? Librarians know to keep explicit sexual material off the shelves, and books are already rated for age-appropriateness by experts in child reading. Parents have preferences, and they can work directly with their children to guide the children when they are exposed to ideas that align or don't align with their values. But keeping certain materials away from all children because some parents object to them is not safe in a democracy.

Carole Barasch
Self
Austin, TX

I am against this bill. Such nonsense. What are these folks so afraid of? Against this bill

Meenah Hulsen
Self
Austin, TX
Against the bill

Vanesa McClure

Hereford High School, Hereford, Tex
Canyon, TX

I am a school librarian and have worked at all levels, K-12. Librarians go to great lengths to make sure inappropriate materials are not added to the collection and are trained how to review books by using many resources, choosing appropriate books for the various age groups, and to take into consideration the community when choosing books to order. If all school collections were audited I'm sure only a handful of inappropriate materials would be found.

Requiring libraries to notify parents each time their child checks out a book is unrealistic. Younger students may checkout multiple books a day. Librarians DO NOT have time to send a parent notice each time their child checks out a book. Library management systems can allow parents access to their child's accounts to see what books are being checking out, similar to the way can check on their child's grades.

As far as requiring a library advisory committee and school board approval for book orders, this will be time consuming. Some schools will make multiple book orders a year. Waiting for the advisory committee then school board to convene and approve the books will limit the information and resources libraries are able to provide students. School boards should not be tasked with this duty, they rely on each campus to monitor the materials housed on their campus. They rely on the professionalism of the staff members to do their jobs.

School districts are currently required to have a library acquisition policy and be posted online. This policy contains all items SB 13 requires. Please review any school district's Instructional Resources/Instructional Materials Selection and Adaption Local Policy, you will find this information.

It is understood the concern our Representatives have for students, but the items contained in this bill are either already in place or logistically flawed.

Thank you for taking the time to hear this comment and for your concern for the students of our state.

Montie Shelton, Mrs.

self

Huntsville, TX

I support SB13. It protects parents' rights and children. Children should not be exposed to sexual material of any sort at a young age. Those who would do so are groomers and do not have the best interests of children at heart.

Kathy Burden, Mrs

Texas conservatives

Frisco, TX

I am for this law better protection of our children

susan Hornbuckle

self

Dripping Springs, TX

Schools do not need external advisory councils nor opinions of far right parents regarding which books should be in the school library.

Lou Ann Anderson

Self - retired

Melissa, TX

Please support this common sense legislation. The content allowed in public schools has become ridiculous, completely inappropriate. This bill appears a sensible approach to curtailing the explicit content materials currently available in school libraries.

Joanne Foote

Self

Austin, TX

Against this bill. It would inhibit the timely processing of library materials. Schools already have ordering processes in place

Jim Baxa, Dr

Self

Lubbock, TX

The schools have become so bad that we either need major moral reform or to abolish those socialist schools

Debi Scaggs

Self

Denton, TX

I would like to give my full support for this bill to clarify the rights of parents and oversight of school libraries. My one disappointment after reading through the entire bill is that it does not include "stake holders" as a voice in being able to challenge books in the school libraries. In my town, it has been the grandmother's who have taken the lead and the majority of the fight against the obscene materials in our schools. Without us nothing would have been done to remove a portion of these books. But this bill is definitely a positive move forward.

Teri Wilson

Self

Sanger, TX

Strengthens the reader act c that was already passed but lacked any accountability. I am in support. Please pass

Vincent Ward

Self

Corpus Christi, TX

I support this bill!! Please consider it and pass it

Stacy Wilson

self

Allen, TX

With the limited amount of shelf space in Public School Libraries, and the amount of books published in the history of time, it is mind boggling to me that we can't fill public school libraries with books that do not contain sexually-explicit scenes. Keeping sexually-explicit books, or books with sexually-explicit scenes out of public school libraries is not "book banning". How ridiculous. Parents & taxpayers should have absolute transparency about ISD selection criteria, reasoning as well as the names of every individual on the selection committee.

Myrna Weaver

Self

Lubbock, TX

Please support this bill to clarify the removal of sexually explicit books from school libraries. The Lubbock Independent School District is full of these books and have failed to take action to remove them. Sexually explicit books are highly addictive and can create sexual confusion in young children. Scientific research shows the dysfunction it creates in young undeveloped minds. These books should never be a part of the local education center. As it stands, these books are providing sexual grooming material for young children. Why would we allow this in our local schools?

Kayla Kelly

Self - Registered Nurse

Houston, TX

I am asking you to oppose this bill because it would give parents decision making power over what books ALL students in a community have access to. I would like my district to focus on improving math and reading scores instead of worrying about controlling library books. Also, Texas already passed HB 900- a school library bill- that school districts are still working to figure out and implement- so we don't need another one. Please vote "no" on SB 13 if it comes up for a committee vote. Thank you.

Eugenio Castellanos, Jr.

self

harlingen, TX

My name is Eugenio Castellanos Jr. and I'm writing in regards to SB13, the Library Advisory Committee bill. As a texan and school library supporter, I am asking you to oppose this bill because it would give a few politically appointed parents decision making power over what books all students in a community have access to. I would like my district to focus on improving math and reading scores instead of worrying about controlling library books. Also, Texas already passed HB 900- a school library bill- that school districts are still working to figure out and implement- so we don't need another one.

Sarabeth Haddad

Self- Mental Health Therapist

Houston, TX

OPPOSE- Librarians are specially trained to select books that support a community's needs. A variety of books is crucial to ensuring that children from all walks of life see themselves in literature and, therefore, society. Parents already have say in what their children read. If their child comes home with a book they are unhappy with, they can talk to their child about that and return that book to their school library. Allowing parents to control what books enter the library is limited on their narrow opinion of what they approve or disapprove of. Only librarians are trained to set aside bias and select materials that are appropriate for the diverse communities in Texas. I oppose this bill.

Daniel Gonzales

Texas children

Lubbock, TX

Lets use our time and money to educate our kids in the traditional sense. Lets make our schools a safe zone. Literally and figuratively
Thank you

Karen Simpson

Voter

College Station, TX

How SB 13 Fixes the Problem

Authored by Sen. Angela Paxton and passed by the Texas Senate, SB 13 strengthens and clarifies what HB 900 started by:
Establishing clear, objective content standards so everyone knows what violates state policy.
Mandating transparent, consistent procedures for handling challenges, including well-documented responses.
Ensuring accountability for local review committees and school boards.
Guaranteeing parents a seat at the table with parent-majority advisory councils.
Providing oversight of book selections and purchases to stop inappropriate books from entering libraries.
SB 13 doesn't just patch the law - it creates a fair and responsive system to protect Texas children!

Chloe Mills
self
Round Rock, TX

This is book banning. Unelected people who aren't librarians shouldn't be in charge of what's in the library. Let the librarians do their job. Vote NO on Sb 13.

Chelsea Cooper
Mental health clinician
Richmond, TX

School library councils, made up of individuals without proper education and training, oversteps the rights and education of librarians and parents in the decision-making of materials accessible to students.

Beverly Mendoza
Self
Dallas, TX

Oppose this bill. It is horrible for libraries which are a life line in our community. Librarians are trained professionals who work w adults and children to help them find information on the topics they need. Additionally, libraries should not be censored. It is a slippery slope to book burning in the streets like we saw in Nazi Germany. We should support reading. Reading and discussing among family and friends to help understanding. If parents want to censor, they need to do it individually. I did for my girls at certain ages.

Beverly Roberts
Citizens Defending Freedom
Houston, TX

Since when do the "experts" have the power to teach our children any kind of garbage that they deem acceptable!? The alarming rate at which teachers are caught teaching children about ideas that are harmful, indicates that parental involvement in the shools is essential. The children do NOT belong to the teacher; they belong to the parents! Please vote YES on this common-sense bill.

Susan Perez
Citizens for Education Reform
Lubbock, TX

Please support SB 13. It is vital to remove the sexually explicit library books from all schools. These are so harmful to the development of our children. We must protect their innocence. Thank you!