

Kathleen Lyons
212 Brickhouse Dr.
Queenstown, MD 21658

Education, Energy and the Environment Committee
SB0738 – Freedom to Read Act- Favorable
February 22, 2024

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Dear Chairman Feldman, Vicechair Kagan, and Members of the Committee:

I am writing to support the SB 0738 Freedom to Read Act to establish state standards for libraries that receive funding from the State. This act mandates all libraries to enact comprehensive policies covering collection selection, maintenance, and re-consideration requests. The act emphasizes strict adherence to those policies.

This legislation is sorely needed. We have seen a national movement come to our state and attempt to limit access to books and other library materials. We must ensure that we have comprehensive policies in place in all our libraries, and we must protect our library staff from being penalized for doing their jobs.

This legislation mandates that all libraries craft comprehensive policies covering collection selection, maintenance, and procedure reconsideration requests, emphasizing strict adherence to those adherence.

The Freedom to Read Act strongly reasserts the constitutional principle that library materials, services, and resources are essential for the interest, information, and enlightenment of all individuals served by the library. The Act strongly safeguards local control of the selection process, empowering libraries to operate within the defined scope set by their board and the state library.

The overwhelming majority of the public stand firmly against censorship. Some 75 percent oppose book banning. Please don't let a vocal minority dictate what the rest of us can read.

Your support for the Freedom to Read Act is vital for our democracy. .

Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely,
S/ Kathleen Lyons
Kathleen Lyons
Vice President, Board of Trustees, Queen Anne's County Free Library