



January 25, 2022

Maryland House of Delegates
6 Bladen St.
Annapolis, MD. 21401

In Opposition To HB 196: Education – Public Schools & County Boards of Education – Publish School Library Catalogs

Members of the Maryland House of Delegates Ways and Means Committee.

We are an organization of military and non-military families with over 1300 members oppose the effort to publish public school library catalogs.

We have many reservations about the intent of this type of bill, at this time. What is the motivation for asking for schools to publish their library catalogs, if not to dissect and try to edit (or ban) the content of school library materials offerings made available to students.

Recently there have been efforts at the local level by ultra conservative groups to try and censor the contents of school libraries. This bill looks like another foray into the culture wars of late. We feel that this bill may be intended to have that same effect. To censor the contents of school libraries. We cannot, and do not support this effort, or this bill.

Our children deserve legislation that supports their varied needs and interests, not legislation that curtails their learning and possibly censors their school's library materials.

Please oppose House Bill 196 and return an unfavorable report.

Thank you for your time, and for considering our testimony today.

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