

## **HB 0196- In Favor**

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Dear Members of the House Ways and Means Committee:

As President of the Montgomery County Federation of Republican Women representing over 400 members, we want to voice our support for HB 0196 regarding publication of school library catalogues.

Before Covid hit our community, parents and members of the community could visit the library to view library books in their child's school. However, that has not been an option since Covid restrictions have kept parents and the public out of schools. Several of my members have requested to view library resources at MCPS schools and have been told they could not enter the school because of COVID health/ safety precautions.

Transparency has been a problem through this pandemic as parents are unable to find out what books are in their child's school libraries. It is especially a concern because we are expected to just take the word of a school system when they say there is no teaching of racism or CRT in their schools. There is a heightened concern that this is untrue since the NEA has under oath admitted to using CRT in schools.<sup>1</sup>

These are public schools paid for with tax money. Therefore, it should be any taxpayer's right to know what books children are reading.

Even when this pandemic ends, parents should not have to walk into the school building. Why is the public library catalogue not already available online with today's technologies?

I thank Delegate Thiam for putting this bill forward, which is frankly overdue. The Montgomery County Federation of Republican Women would like all taxpayers to be able to go online and see the books available in every school. An added plus, it might even help to close the opportunity gap because my members and other charitable organizations would be able to see which schools have fewer resources. Through our Mamie Eisenhower Program, we donate books every year to schools in the county where we see a need and it would help us evaluate which schools need more help. Thank you.

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<sup>1</sup>Teachers Unions Go to Court to Deter CRT Disclosure:  
<https://www.heritage.org/progressivism/commentary/teachers-unions-go-court-deter-critical-race-theory-disclosure>