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TESTIMONY ON HB#/1311 - POSITION: UNFAVORABLE

Criminal Law - Obscene Material - Device Filters

TO: Chair Wilson, Vice Chair Crosby and members of the Economic Matters Committee

FROM: Richard Keith Kaplowitz

My name is Richard Keith Kaplowitz. I am a resident of District 3. I am submitting this testimony against HB#/1311, Criminal Law - Obscene Material - Device Filters

This bill is another that seems to be supporting the conservative's political agenda for control of the free expression of ideas and words that they object to. Because I am offended by something then you have no right to it, my opinion is the only one that counts when it comes to what your minors should be permitted to read or view. What gives them the right to censor for all, who makes the determination of what is or is not obscene?

There are many excellent reasons to oppose this bill. The EveryLibrary Institute states "The effort to criminalize bona fide professions is happening alongside a movement to redefine what content of books, ebooks, and materials is considered obscene. The concept of what is appropriate or inappropriate is hotly debated at board meetings, on social media, and in the public square. **The concept of "appropriateness" is often defined by the offended party rather than contemporary community standards.** (Emphasis added) The "relevance" of a book to a topic or population should drive library collection development practices and material retention policies."¹

This bill is unnecessary and only serves to respond to a political agenda in which a small group wants to control the majority and suppress anything that troubles them for everyone else.

I respectfully urge this committee to return an unfavorable report on HB#/1311.

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https://assets.nationbuilder.com/votelibraries/pages/5762/attachments/original/1674613743/Opposing_Changes_to_State_Obscenity_Laws_2023_-_EveryLibrary_Institute_PB2.pdf?167461374398/Opposing_Changes_to_State_Obscenity_Laws_2023_-_EveryLibrary_Institute_PB.pdf?1674485398