

I urge you to support the Freedom to Read Act. I have taught secondary English for 22 years in Anne Arundel County. I am confident that the librarians both at our public schools and public libraries know how to make appropriate selections for what books are available to students and the general public. As professionals, they should not be at the whim of vocal minorities who want to limit what others can read. We are seeing this happen both across the country and even within our own state. This is not acceptable in a democracy.

Too often the result of these book banning efforts is that books by and about people of color and the LGBTQ+ community are removed from library shelves; however, all people deserve the right to have their stories told and be shared with the larger community. We as readers turn to books to learn about those who are different than us in order to gain new perspectives as well as to read about those who are similar to us in order to feel seen. If we continue to allow the banning of books, we diminish these opportunities for readers both to understand and to feel understood.

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