

February 19, 2024

**RE: HB785**

Dear Ways and Means Committee,

I am a parent in the State of Maryland of three daughters.

I am aware that HB785 “Freedom to Read Act” is a bill designed to remove local control from our local elected school board. We don’t want the state overreaching. This bill, if passed, would allow unrestricted access to obscene materials by minors in all our public schools.

This has harmful impacts to parental rights and our children’s well-being.

- The proposed bill would violate my parental rights by removing my power over what is readily available to my children..
- The proposed bill would infringe our family’s religious liberties, as it grossly conflicts with our conservative values that built this nation.

This proposed bill would be so harmful to our children’s well-being, parental rights, and religious liberties that if adopted, would result in a mass exodus with parents removing their children from public school.

Calculate the **economic impact** of concerned parents removing their children from public schools due to these proposed regulations, as the school budgets will be drastically reduced as kids are withdrawn from public school at a large number.

I strongly urge you to abandon HB 785.

K.M., Worcester County MD