



Moms for Liberty Maryland Legislative Committee urges an Unfavorable Report for HB 785: Freedom to Read Act.

This deceptively titled bill is anathema to freedom. This legislation would deny the local community and their local Boards of Education the authority to exercise control over school library policies and standards. If this legislation is enacted, all school libraries will be mandated to align with “State Standards for Libraries.” Failure to follow a top down approach and adoption of the State defined standards will result in withholding of funds if the local policies do not conform to State standards. This legislation is a blatant attempt to abridge parental rights over the education of their children.

The recent phenomenon of sexually explicit materials appearing in school libraries has led to parents questioning and demanding age inappropriate materials be removed. This has been met with an orchestrated campaign to label these inquiries as “book bans.” Using the sophistry and language manipulation of the terms “diverse and inclusive”, school libraries across the state have managed to purchase and defend material that many parents find objectionable. This legislation will exempt librarians from challenges to their decision to curate books that violate community standards in favor of State Standards.

This bill is yet another threat to local authority and violates parental rights over the education of their children by removing local control for decisions regarding school library curation policy. **Moms for Liberty urges an Unfavorable Report for HB 785.**

