

Good evening.

I am a long-time Maryland resident, and a new resident of Carroll County. I am deeply troubled to learn that a Carroll County-based group, Moms for Liberty in Carroll County, is working to ban books from schools and has changed the method in which books are approved, now requiring the media specialist to read each book and personally sign off on it being added to the Media Center.

I strongly support the Freedom to Read Act's intent to protect access to literature and our Media Specialists. I have two children who will likely enroll in Carroll County Public Schools, and want them to have access to literature that makes them read, question, and think. We strive to raise kids who will synthesize, analyze, and challenge the status quo--and preparing them to do so requires that they have full access to literature from a variety of perspectives, written by authors with varied life experiences.

As stated in today's Washington Post: "You can't claim freedom and liberty and then decide what books other people can read. You can't object to the government, then ask the government to do your parenting for you by banning the books you don't want your kids to read."

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/dc-md-va/2024/02/19/maryland-bill-book-challenges-libraries/>

Thank you for supporting this bill.

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