

Written Testimony for **HB 282: Public Schools - Sexually Explicit Materials - Prohibited in Libraries and Media Centers:** Please **VOTE YES** on this bill!!!

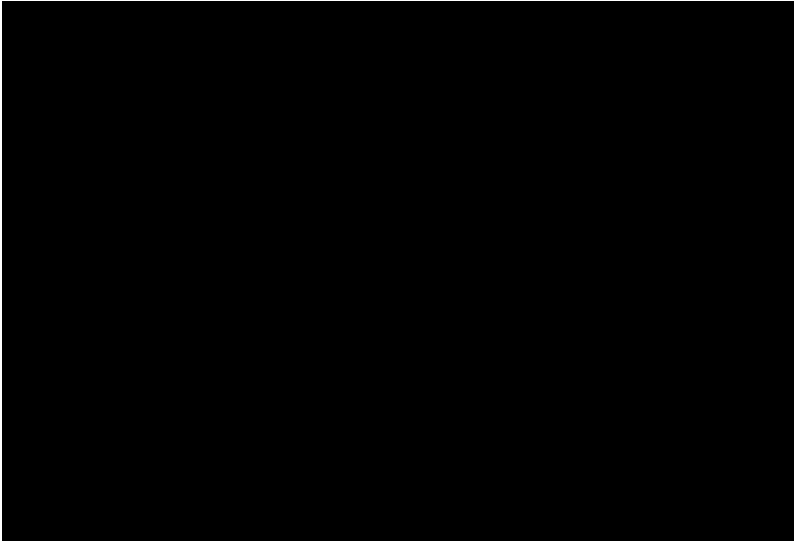
Dear Ways & Means Committee:

I remember sitting in many prior BOE meetings In Frederick County last year and listening to the incredibly sexually explicit passages that were read out loud to the BOE members during Public Comment. I remember seeing the poster-sized visual representations of the sexually explicit graphics that were in at least several of these sexually explicit books. I remember feeling overwhelmingly nauseated listening to and seeing these images. I also remember feeling nauseated that these types of sexually explicit materials were available to our children at our public school libraries/media centers.

I also remember the public being told that if there was any language that was used during Public Comment that went against the Student Code of Conduct, that the speaker would be asked to stop using such language. How hypocritical!! If a passage from a book that is able to be checked out from our public school system is too sexually explicit that it does not follow the Student Code of Conduct, then why is it available to be checked out by our children in the first place?!! When the Frederick County Board of Education and Supt. Dyson were asked to remove these sexually explicit materials; that request was met with a lot of name-calling and sentiments such as "that would be book banning". This is not book banning. If these books are available in many other places and through many other resources, then the request to remove these sexually explicit books is not a request to "ban" a book, as it is literally available through other places and resources. I truly don't understand what is so hard to understand about that. Therefore, for all those parents that alleged that this would be book banning, those parents could simply go to almost any other retail source, ex. Amazon, book stores, brick and mortar or online, and even the Frederick County public libraries, to obtain these sexually explicit books for their children to read.

Also, the week Of January 11, 2024, it was driven home to me that there are other counties in Maryland that actually care enough about their students to actually vote to remove these types of sexually explicit materials from their public school libraries/media centers. Please read the following article:

[Unanimous Carroll school board vote bans 'sexually explicit' materials](#)



**Unanimous Carroll school board vote bans  
'sexually explicit' materials**

The updated policy defines sexually explicit content as,  
"unambiguously describing, depicting, showing, or writi

This is EXACTLY what the Carroll County Board of Education voted to do!! Carroll County's BOE cares so much about the well-being of its students that they made the following statement a part of their policy IN ALL CAPS:

"... ALL OTHER INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS, INCLUDING SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS, SHALL NOT CONTAIN SEXUALLY EXPLICIT CONTENT. SEXUALLY EXPLICIT CONTENT IS DEFINED AS UNAMBIGUOUSLY DESCRIBING, DEPICTING, SHOWING, OR WRITING ABOUT SEX OR SEX ACTS IN A DETAILED OR GRAPHIC MANNER."

It was a UNANIMOUS decision by all members of the Carroll County BOE!! There wasn't a single Board member who voted to keep these sexually explicit materials in their school system, not just their libraries/media centers, but in their schools as a whole!!!

Therefore, my question to this Committee is this: Are you all going to be brave and do the right thing, like the Carroll County Board of Education did? There's no excuse now!! The precedent

has been set!! It's now time to do the right thing and ban this inappropriate material from our schools and our school libraries and media centers!!

There is no good that can come from DECIDING SPECIFICALLY to leave sexually explicit materials in our public schools for our children to be exposed to. It is completely inappropriate. Now is your chance to show the entire State of Maryland that you actually want to focus on ACADEMICS and not sexually explicit materials being put in front of our children!!

Thank you for your courtesy and cooperation.

Trudy Tibbals

A Very Concerned Mother of 3 and Frederick County resident