

# **Committee on Children JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT**

**Bill No.:** SB-1271

**Title:** AN ACT CONCERNING SCHOOL AND PUBLIC LIBRARIES.

**Vote Date:** 3/6/2025

**Vote Action:** Joint Favorable Substitute

**PH Date:** 2/13/2025

**File No.:** 204

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## **SPONSORS OF BILL:**

Committee on Children

## **REASONS FOR BILL:**

This bill intends to create a universal policy of review and maintenance that is developed by the library working group that this legislation establishes. This working group will also review and developed library programs and display policies. This bill also creates guidelines and processes for challenging a book or event in a library. HB 1271 also establishes civil and criminal immunity for librarians who in good faith implement the policies from this bill.

The substitute language adds clarifying language to the bill.

This bill seeks to create a safer environment for librarians and libraries. It seeks to establish a more universal policy for when books are increasingly being challenged in local libraries – this will create more certainty and protection for the libraries. It also seeks to make sure all points of view are available in libraries.

## RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

[Connecticut State Library, Office of the State Librarian, State Librarian, Deborah Schander](#), has multiple suggestions for improvements to SB 1271 as it progresses through the legislative process. Firstly, they say the bill should fully decouple the development requirements for school library policies and for public library policies due to the differences between how school and public libraries are governed, and they feel the model language proposed in the bill makes it harder for both classes of libraries to create recommendations for materials responsive to the needs of their patrons. Secondly, they ask the legislature to consider adding a requirement to post these new policies online for transparency. And lastly, they wish for the bill to differentiate between library-sponsored programs and displays from programs and displays created by members of the public, displayed in libraries but not directly sponsored by the library.

## NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

[Thirty-Two individuals submitted written testimony anonymously](#), supporting this bill, citing freedom of speech rights and protections, protecting the safety and well-being of library professionals, protecting the rights and freedom of expression of LGBTQIA+ youth, protecting education, and taking a stand against a trend of book banning that has been increasing both nationally and statewide over the past few years.

[Sexual Health Educator, Kim Adamski](#), supports this bill because in their line of work, they've found most people lack knowledge in sexual health matters, and that the availability of sexual education books are the most effective way to ensure students can properly be educated on the subject, and maintain safe and healthy sexual health practices.

[Parent, Tina Alberino](#), supports this bill, because they have five children in the Avon public school system, and they left the state of Florida, in part, due to book banning activists and religious extremists making efforts to ban books in that state. They feel children's access to literature should not be limited.

[Children's Book Author and Illustrator, Elizabeth Alcorn, \(pen name Lizzy Rockwell\)](#) supports this bill, and in addition to their profession, they are also a grandmother and child advocate. They support the bill because without access to all types of literature, they feel we are denying our children the opportunity to properly develop and reason for themselves and are a strong proponent of the arts and freedom of expression.

[Deep River Public Library, Asst. Director/Children's Librarian, & Children's Author, Elaine Alexander, MLS](#) supports this bill because they support the values of fostering knowledge, intellectual freedom, and open access to diverse ideas. They are strongly opposed to censorship and book banning or restriction in any form, finding it contradictory to the ideals for freedom of expression and democracy.

[Parent, Ray Andrewsen](#), supports the bill, because as a parent of two sons who have achieved collegiate academic success, after going through the North Haven school system, Andrewsen credits a strong encouragement of reading and learning about a wide variety of diverse topics as critical to their children's success. He strongly supports freedom of

expression and feels parents are still empowered by this bill to make critical choices for their families.

[New Haven Resident, Wade Arenberg](#), supports this bill because they feel banning or limiting access to books in limits the ability of one to engage with complex issues and ideas, understand different cultures, and challenge personal biases. They feel it ultimately limits critical thinking skills and our ability to solve problems.

[Dana Astmann](#) supports the bill because as the grandchild of a Holocaust survivor and a member of the LGBTQ+ community, they are concerned with any efforts to ban or censor books and feel the state's children must have access to books that share a wide variety of stories and perspectives.

[Library Worker, Emily B.](#), supports this bill because it protects and codifies the right to read and the right to petition. They feel an individual parent has the right to choose what their own child reads, they do not have the right to dictate what information everyone else in their community has access to. They also strongly support the bills protections of librarians when dealing with book challenges.

[West Haven Library, Executive Director, Colleen Bailie](#), supports the bill because they feel strongly feel libraries are important institutions of learning, especially for those that cannot afford to purchase library materials at retail stores. They feel that libraries now require legislative protection, such as that which would be provided in this bill, to protect that availability of a wide variety of material especially materials from BIPOC or LGBTQ authors, and to protect the safety of librarians.

[Stephen Colon](#) supports the bill because they believe banning books is damaging to public wellbeing and feels there should be a process for librarians to review materials in a transparent way without damaging their careers.

[Out Accountability Project, Founder, Melissa Combs](#), supports this bill because they feel that banning books from libraries puts the freedom to read in jeopardy, and puts undue pressure on libraries and schools. They are concerned by an exponential increase in banned books across the US over the past few years, and in many cases, they feel similar efforts to ban books in Connecticut are often a result of bad actors who don't live here.

[Connecticut Public High School Library Media Specialist, Alicia Cook](#), supports the bill, because they feel librarians are specially trained to curate diverse collections and help provide a welcoming space for individuals of all ages to explore ideas, expand their knowledge and exercise their right to access information. They appreciate how this bill will ensure materials are selection and maintained based on professional standards and help them to develop policies that are responsive to their unique communities while upholding the core principles of intellectual freedom.

[West Haven Public Library, Adult Services Librarian, Taylor Cordova](#), supports the bill because they feel the policies the bill would establish for the development and review of library materials and programs, will protect people's right to read and petition. They appreciate the library as a community safe space, and a place to provide materials that

contain a wide range of topics and viewpoints. They feel parents have the right to decide what their own children read, but this does not extend to the entire community.

[Author and illustrator, Gaia Cornwall](#), supports the bill and does not support book banning.

[Westport Library, Marketing Director, EJ Crawford](#), supports the bill because they say it would protect and codify both the right to read and the right to petition.

[Librarian, Patrick Crowley](#), supports the bill because they feel it would help create an equal access for information in the state, support the wide diversity of the states' citizenry and create defined procedural mechanisms for registering challenges and addressing them. They appreciate that this bill provides a clear and fair policy for media curation, that smaller state libraries may not have the means for themselves.

[Lifelong Learner, Rebecca D](#), supports the bill because they say access to information is vital for a healthy democracy and this bill would help safeguard libraries and the rights of freedom of speech and freedom of information.

[Veteran and Darien Parent, Tara Dale](#), supports this bill because they feel the bill protects the first amendment, libraries, and librarians. They feel it is important for the bill to be modified to also include local boards of education, teachers, administrators, and schools to also be included and protected by this bill from systemic attacks from national interest groups.

[Newington Public Schools, Library Media Specialist, Jessica Dalton](#) supports the bill because they feel it affirms the importance of equitable access to information, professionally curated library collections, and transparent policies that uphold both intellectual freedom and educational integrity. They highlight the bill's provisions to protect school library staff from undue harassment and legal challenges as essential, so they can work without fear of personal attacks.

[Author, Sarah Darer Littman](#), supports the bill because they say libraries and the availability of a wide variety of materials, helped them develop intellectually into who they are today, and they feel that banning books prevents other children from freely developing similarly. They also wish to protect librarians and library staff.

[Southington Resident, Parent, Nicole Davidow](#) supports the bill because it codifies both the right to read and the right to petition. They feel individuals and parents can make their own decisions about what they want to read and removing or banning library books leads to government censorship and erosion of freedom of expression.

[Connecticut Arts Alliance, Interim Executive Director, Rufus de Rham](#), supports the bill because they feel it would protect and codify both the right to read and the right to petition. They feel it's critical that libraries have a wide variety resources that cater to the entire communities they serve, not just a section of it, and that they preserve the freedom to access a wide variety of materials.

[Retired Librarian, Carl DeMilia](#), supports the bill because they say it will protect librarians and enable them to do their jobs in the manner to which they have been professionally trained, and allow them to uphold free speech and intellectual freedom.

[Southbury Resident, Susan Cote-DeMilia](#), supports the bill because they support free speech, and say the bill will ensure students' access to a variety of materials, and protect librarians.

[Connecticut Education Association, President, Kate Dias](#),  
[Connecticut Education Association, Vice President, Joslyn DeLancey](#),  
Support the bill because they support the rights of students to access a wide range of materials and supporting librarians and teachers. They feel the bill protects the above while, also allowing for local direction and accountability in library material curation.

[Library Media Specialist and Bethlehem Resident, Valerie DiLorenzo](#), supports the bill because they feel librarians and library staff deserve the protections afforded by the bill for doing their jobs, and because they support the ability of students and library patrons to read freely.

[Amy Domeika](#), supports the bill.

[Not Just Us, Founder, Brian Donahue](#), supports the bill because they feel all students should have the right to view and access library materials that feature people who look like them, written by persons who look like them and understand their experience. They feel while a parent has the right to determine what their own child views, they do not feel they have the right to determine what other students view.

[Westport Library, Chief Impact Officer, Victoria Donohue](#), supports the bill because it would codify both the right to read, and the right to petition. They feel it is critical to protect the freedoms and rights of parents, teachers, students, library and school staff and notes the bill will do this and still provide a codified process for curation.

[Connecticut Senate Majority Leader, Bob Duff](#), strongly supports the bill because they feel it's important that students and library-goers of all ages have access to a wide variety of materials that share the perspectives and experiences of many different persons and cultures. They say the bill is needed due to recently increasing efforts nationally and statewide to ban certain materials from libraries. They say this bill will protect the intellectual freedom of the public and students and protect librarians.

[Mark Twain Library, Library Director, Erin Dummeyer](#), supports the bill in the spirit of library founder Mark Twain, who was upset at efforts to remove *Huckleberry Finn* from libraries in his own time. They support the right of persons to read freely and to intellectual freedom. They also note that when books are challenged, the time and effort a library director must then undertake is very costly, and takes away from their other duties, all costing taxpayers more money.

[P. Dunham](#), supports the bill because they feel restricting education on select topics and limits free thinking, open-mindedness and the ability to have a proper education.

[West Haven Librarian, Mother, and Young Adult Author, Catherine Egan](#), supports the bill because they support the rights of young persons to access a wide variety of library resources, and appreciates the bill offering a standardized process for reviewing challenged materials.

[Sarah Eiseman](#), supports the bill because they say libraries are vital to a healthy democracy, and these polices protect and codify both the rights to read and to petition.

[Elizabeth Eldridge](#), supports this bill because it will establish clear standardized policies for handling library materials. They feel the proposed guidelines support inclusivity and free expression in libraries and that the process for reviewing challenged materials will be fair and transparent.

[Richard Eldridge](#), supports the bill because they say it will establish clear policies for managing and displaying library materials, and allow libraries to continue to promote inclusivity and free expression.

[Simsbury Public Library Trustee and Friends of the Simsbury Public Library, Board Member, Anne Erickson](#), supports the bill because they feel the policies it will codify are very important in today's political climate.

[Susan Falzone](#), supports the bill because they say it codifies both the right to read and the right to petition. They feel while individuals can decide what is right for their own family, libraries can and should have a wide collection of materials that support the educational and recreational needs of all families.

[Literacy Tutor and Parent, Alexandra Fantl](#), supports the bill because its policies will codify both the right to read and the right to petition. They strongly support libraries containing a wide variety of materials that share diverse perspectives and experiences from a wide variety of backgrounds.

[Mother, Karen Fechter](#), supports the bill because they believe access to choice in reading materials is part of our right to freedom of speech as Americans, and that restricting information impedes development of traits such as empathy and open-mindedness in younger students. They feel it is not the place of government at any level to determine what its citizens read.

[Deep River Public Library, Board Member, Sarah Field](#), supports the bill, stating that they support the right to codify and petition.

[Parent, Emily Finn](#), supports the bill because it would codify both the right to read and the right to petition. They feel that while a parent has the right to determine what library materials their own child views, they have no right to determine what materials other children in the community view.

[Young Adult Author, Carrie Firestone](#), supports the bill because they've had many colleagues targeted and harassed by book banners across the country, and feel free access to literature is essential for individuals to properly develop.

[Gary Firestone](#), supports the bill because it will create a uniform system to approach development and maintenance of library materials in public and school libraries, and provide better guidelines for challenging library materials. They do have a concern with the language of the bill however, stating the terms "age-appropriate" and "grade-appropriate" are not defined, and could be used to limit the range of materials available to students using school libraries.



[Young Adult Author, Debbi Michiko Florence](#), supports the bill because they support the freedom to read a wide variety of materials and they feel books allow under-represented groups to be seen and heard.

[UConn Student, Terry Forlenzo](#), supports the bill because it codifies both the right to read and the right to petition. They feel the bill will safeguard the freedom of students to explore diverse ideas and develop their own voices, as well as protect librarians.

[Children's Author, Deborah Freedman](#), supports the bill because it codifies both the rights to read and to petition, and believes library professionals should be empowered to do the jobs they've been trained for.

[Sherry Fritzsche](#), supports the bill because they feel book banning should be illegal.

[North Haven Resident, Timothy Gabriele](#), supports the bill because it combats recent efforts from various groups to ban books statewide and nationally in particular targeting LGBTQ+ materials. They feel libraries provide an important place for the exchange of a wide variety of ideas and support their library.

[Lower School Program Coordinator, Renuka Gandhi](#), supports the bill because they believe every individual should be trusted to make their own decisions about what they read. They say book banning removes some voices and leads to ignorance and miseducation.

[Vanessa Garcia](#), supports the bill because it codifies both the right to read and the right to petition. They feel parents can choose what their own child reads but does not believe they have the right to limit other children.

[Bruce Gaylord](#), supports the bill because it codifies both the right to read and the right to petition. They feel the ability of libraries to contain a diverse selection of material is important.

[Caitlyn Gelfand](#), supports the bill because they feel the concept of book banning is unconstitutional and un-American. They say studies show it positively affects children to see themselves represented in media.

[Jenn Ginsburg](#), supports the bill, because they say it protects the first amendment right to free speech. They say banning books leads to censorship of strong voices, predominately those of people of color and women.

[CT Association of School Librarians, VP Intern, and Library Media Specialist, Audra Good](#), supports the bill because it protects the right to read and the right to petition. They believe libraries are important centers for a wide variety of resources, and that librarians are trusted professionals that have the best interests of student and children at heart, who should be empowered to do their jobs safely without fear or intimidation.

[Newington John Paterson Elementary School, PTO President, Amanda Grabowski](#), supports the bill, because they feel it will protect the freedom to read, and maintain the ability for BIPOC and LGBTQIA+ persons to have a voice in available library materials. They appreciate how the bill will ensure a transparent process to book challenges, and that library staff will not be prosecuted for good faith actions.

[Teresa Grace](#) supports the bill, because they feel it's up to individuals to decide what is right for their family and the availability of select materials should not be restricted by the few.

[Greg Gregory](#), supports the bill because they say it will help ensure that all children and adults can continue to access books that enrich their lives and reflect their experiences.

[Caitlin Griffin](#), supports the bill, because they say it protects the rights to read and to petition. They appreciate libraries containing a wide variety of materials that share a diverse collective of perspectives.

[Ashley Gulyas](#), supports the bill because they say they trust librarians to do their jobs, and display appropriate materials, representing diversity of thought and experiences.

[Rosemary Halstead](#), supports the bill, because they wish to ensure that libraries are free to protect the rights of citizens to read the books they choose, rather than being told what is, or is not appropriate.

[Joan Hammond](#), supports the bill because they believe in the freedom to read, and they trust library professionals to display appropriate materials.

[The Westport Library, Executive Director, William Harmer](#) supports the bill because they feel it protects both the right to read and the right to petition, by outlining clear policies for library material objections. They feel that the bill recognizes that families, not the government, shall determine what their own children view, but that the greater community retains access to materials that showcase a wide range of perspectives and ideas.

[Jennifer Heikkila Diaz](#), supports the bill, because they feel it protects and codifies both the rights to read and to petition. They are concerned about a rise in book banning in recent years, and as a K-12 educator, they work with and trust librarians as community partners who use their expertise to help educate our children.

[Cruz Herrera](#), supports the bill because they say it codifies both the right to read and the right to petition, supporting the first amendment right to free speech. They support and trust their local librarians and appreciate that their children have access to a wide variety of library materials that showcase diverse perspectives.

[Deep River Public Library Employee, Graduate Student, and Parent, Stefanie Hill](#), supports the bill because they say it protects our first amendment right to free speech, by encouraging and allowing for continued intellectual freedom at our libraries. They feel removing books is a form of censorship that suppresses dissenting ideas.

[Patricia Holloway](#), supports the bill, because as a former public library administrator, they feel it provides safety for librarians from liability, when they have expended due diligence in following the policies and procedures recommended in the bill.

[Linda Honan](#), supports the bill, because they believe and support in open access to diverse thoughts, are opposed to censorship, and support protecting librarians and their work.

[Annie Hornish](#), supports the bill, because they feel it would protect our freedom to read and empower accredited librarians.



[John Huffman](#), supports the bill, because they feel it codifies both the right to read and the right to petition. They value the right of citizens to freely read and view materials that come from a diverse number of backgrounds and explore differing ideas and experiences. They respect and appreciate the professionalism of librarians and appreciate that the bill will empower librarians to continue their work free from fear of legal jeopardy and harassment. [Old Lyme-Phoebe Griffin Noyes Library Association, Director, Katie Huffman](#), supports the bill because codifies the right to read and the right to petition. They appreciate how the bill establishes a fair, standard process for challenging materials and feel librarians and library staff and administrators should be protect for executing their professional duties.

[Connecticut Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities, Executive Director, Tanya Hughes](#), supports the bill, feeling it will protect representation of various cultures and perspectives in a wide variety of library materials, especially BIPOC and LGBTQIA+ materials.

[Alison Hunt](#), supports the bill because they feel it respects the rights of all citizens, and safeguards values related to freedom of expression. They feel the legislation protects library staff from harassment, and legal suits, empowering them to do their jobs, and provides a fair process for library material challenges.

[Hartford Public Library, Teen and Young Adult Services Librarian, Manuel Iglesias Fernández](#), supports the bill because they feel it codifies both the right to read and the right to petition. They stress that librarians are trained professionals that carefully select which materials to display for each age group. They appreciate the bill's provisions protecting library staff an enabling these professionals to do their jobs.

[Simsbury Library Patron, Leslie Imse](#), supports the bill because they feel it will protect free speech by codifying both the right to read and the right to petition.

[South Windsor Resident, Rebecca McGovney-Ingram](#), supports the bill because they feel it empowers librarians and teachers to do their jobs, and they support a wide variety of groups being represented in available materials at their library.

[Public School Librarian, Katie Irwin](#), supports the bill because they feel it safeguards both the right to read and the right to petition. They highlight the professional training of librarians, and the careful thought process all librarians go through when selecting which materials to curate. They feel censorship denies students the opportunity to explore diverse perspectives and is unfair to all readers.

[Center for Youth Leadership, Student Advocate, Jaya Iyer](#), supports the bill on behalf of the members of the Center for Youth Leadership, a student activism group at Brien McMahon High School in Norwalk. They suggest changes to the bill's language. Specifically, they suggest that in line 127, "request for consideration" not be limited to parents of children currently enrolled in a district school, which would give a voice to other community members in curation. Regarding the paragraph in line 152, they suggest allowing two students, one junior and one senior, on all challenge teams, regardless of who submits a challenge. They also ask the legislature to consider asking school districts to design lesson plans that library media specialists can use to educate students about the process of library material acquisition, and the process for challenging library material.

[Caitlin J.](#) supports the bill because they feel it empowers libraries to curate a range of materials that express a wide range of varied ideas and viewpoints. They oppose efforts to ban books and feel a library working group would enhance the learning environment of children via the groups' ability to review requests with multiple viewpoints and specialists in the library field.

[Parent, Jennifer Johnston](#), supports the bill citing their belief that both the right to read and the right to petition are important and they do not it is the government's role to censor materials or ban books from libraries. They feel that is up to the parent, and banning materials limits our children's ability to develop.

[Publishing Industry Employee, Deidre Jones](#) supports the bill because they support young people having the freedom to discover new ideas and alternate points of view.

[Children's Author, Heather Kannam](#), supports the bill because it would codify both the right to read and the right to petition. They feel the bill empowers children to have the freedom to read, they trust librarians to curate materials for the community.

[Kristin Keane](#) supports the bill because they are against book bans.

[Lisa Kelly](#), supports the bill because they've worked in the children's book industry for over two decades, and they feel libraries should be safe spaces for children to be introduced to new ideas, experiences and cultures. They trust library professionals and feel they should be trusted to do their jobs. They hope the bill will help prevent frivolous complaints.

[Michael Llimas](#), supports the bill because they feel readers should have access to a wide range of library materials, that showcase an infinite number of interests and points of view. They feel parents, not the government, should be able to determine what their own child reads.

[The Ferguson Library, CEO, Alison Knapp](#), supports the bill because they view libraries as knowledge repositories that showcase a wide diversity of viewpoints in their materials. They feel parents, not the government, should be the arbiter in what their own child reads.

[LCSW, Sara Zuba](#), supports the bill because they feel it codifies both the right to read and the right to petition. They appreciate the professionalism they've experienced from staff when visiting their local library and highlight the kindness of the staffers.

[Newtown High School Librarian, Lisa Zandonella](#), supports the bill because they feel book bans have a negative impact on their students, and they feel its important to make all students feel welcome and respected, and that beings by providing them materials that represent many diverse viewpoints. They also feel the bill will help protect the personal safety of librarians and library staff.

[Anne Koneru](#), supports the bill because, they feel the bill will protect both the right to read and the right to petition. They are concerned with increased efforts to ban books in recent years, because they feel our children benefit from the free flow of speech and ideas.

[Nurse Practitioner and New Haven Pride, Co-Chair, Jamie Krzmarzick](#), supports the bill because, they feel it codifies both the right to read and the right to petition. They feel the bills protections to protect library staff from harassment are needed, as they have personally

witnessed librarians being harassed at their local library. They say everyone deserves to be represented in the materials found at the library.

[Dr. Peggy Ku](#), supports the bill because, they feel the policies will protect both the right to read and the right to petition. They feel broadening the information our children are exposed to helps them become well rounded individuals.

[New Haven Free Public Library, Board of Directors, Treasurer, Susan Lamar](#), supports the bill because, they feel it will codify both the right to read and the right to petition. They feel the bill empowers materials that showcase a wide variety of viewpoints and subject matter to remain accessible in libraries. They state the guardians of a child are to monitor what their own child reads, but their opinion should not be forced upon others.

[C Leary](#), supports the bill because, they feel representation matters, and learning about the experiences of others makes for a more empathetic and compassionate society.

[Connecticut Library Association and Intellectual Freedom, Co-Chair, Sam Lee](#), supports the bill because, they feel it codifies both the right to read and the right to petition. They feel the bill protects the community's access to free speech. They state parental rights end with the parents' own child, they should not be able to dictate what the rest of the community can read. They appreciate that libraries are places with ideas flow freely, via materials that showcase a wide range of viewpoints and experiences.

[Humanities Teacher, Samm Leska](#), supports the bill because, it codifies both the right to read and the right to petition, protects and instills trust in librarians and library staffers, and enables children to view a wide variety of materials that affirm themselves and feel understood.

[Jessica Lewis](#), supports the bill because, they feel the policies outlined in the bill would prevent both the right to read and the right to petition. They do not feel censorship of what the public reads is needed outside of their own immediate families, and they do feel that young people deserve to see themselves reflected in the materials they read.

[Diana Lombardi](#), supports the bill because, they feel the bill will prevent LGBTQ+ children from questioning or experience negative feelings growing up, by allowing them access to a wide variety of materials at their libraries.

[Cesar Lopez](#), supports the bill because, they are against censorship, and strongly support libraries as crucial centers for educating and informing communities.

[Friends of the East Hampton Public Library, Secretary, Eliza LoPresti](#), supports the bill because, they feel it will codify both the right to read and the right to petition. They trust the professionalism of librarians and believe in the ability for libraries to have a wide diverse variety of materials on display.

[Connecticut Association of Librarians, President, Jenny Lussier](#), supports the bill because, they believe a library should have a wide and diverse collection of materials accessible to their patrons, and they highlight the professional process they undertake to curate materials. They believe in their students' freedom to read and believe school libraries and school librarians are crucial to the academic success of students in the state.

[Student, Fulla M.](#), supports the bill because, they believe it is important for libraries to have a wide range of books that reflect a wide variety of experiences and cultures. They say it helps people feel understood, represented, and respected.

[Stephanie Magnuson](#), supports the bill because, they have seen attempts to ban books in their town, support the freedom to read, believe young people should be reflected in the materials of a library, are against government censorship, and pro freedom of expression.

[West Haven Public Library, Library Assistant, Shane Maher](#), supports the bill because, they say it codifies both the right to read and the right to petition. They appreciate libraries as a safe space where ideas flow freely and showcase a wide variety of materials. They are cognizant of recent efforts to ban books and believe this bill will help combat some of these efforts.

[Hamden Resident, Kevin Maloney](#), supports the bill.

[Hamden Resident, Mary Maloney](#), supports the bill because, as a retired teacher, they feel it's important to protect librarians, and the role of libraries, to protect free speech.

[Bloomfield Public Library, Youth Services Librarian, Denise Martens](#), supports the bill because, they feel books in a library should showcase a wide variety of materials that express many different views and experiences, acting as mirrors to ourselves. They feel the bill's proposed process for dealing with book challenges is fair.

[Laura Martineau](#), supports the bill because, they respect the training and expertise of library media professionals. They feel a wide variety of materials are needed to allow children to properly develop and for society to function.

[New Haven Public Library, Public Services Administrator, Rory Martorana](#), supports the bill because, they feel it codifies both the right to read and the right to petition. They feel it's important that library materials allow people to see themselves represented in works that showcase a wide variety of views and viewpoints. As a librarian, they also cite the expertise librarians have and the expertise they deploy when curating materials. They feel it is a parent's right to control what their child views, but not to impose their views on the greater community.

[William Marut](#), supports the bill because, they feel it codifies both the right to read and the right to petition. They feel it's important that library materials allow people to see themselves represented in works that showcase a wide variety of views and viewpoints. They respect the expertise of librarians to responsibly curate and are opposed to censorship.

[Trevor McChristian](#), supports the bill because, they view the library as a sanctuary and feel it's a place where kids should be free to read books that not only reflect their world, but expose them to the experiences of others.

[Barbara McClintock](#), supports the bill because, they feel it codifies both the right to read and the right to petition. They feel it's important that library materials allow people to see themselves represented in works that showcase a wide variety of views and viewpoints. As

an author and illustrator of children's books, they appreciate libraries and the expertise of librarians to educate our children.

[Tess McCool](#), supports the bill because, they feel it codifies both the right to read and the right to petition. They feel it's important that library materials allow people to see themselves represented in works that showcase a wide variety of views and viewpoints. They feel this legislation is needed due to recent trends to remove certain voices and experiences from libraries which they view as wrong.

[Holly McGrath](#), supports the bill because, they feel it protects library professionals and empowers them to do their jobs. They feel it's important that library materials allow people to see themselves represented in works that showcase a wide variety of views and viewpoints.

[Simsbury Public Schools, Library Media Specialist, Mike McKenna](#), supports the bill because, they feel it strengthens the freedom to read and protects library professionals who are doing their jobs.

[Lynda McManus](#), supports the bill because, they feel banning books is a harmful practice.

[Librarian and Mother, Shannon McNeice](#), supports the bill because, it will empower, they say, the rights of students to read and of librarians to do their jobs.

[Julie Medeiros](#), supports the bill because, they feel it codifies both the right to read and the right to petition. They feel it's important that library materials allow people to see themselves represented in works that showcase a wide variety of views and viewpoints. They do not feel a single parent has the right to decide what other children, beyond their own, can or cannot read.

[Addie Merians](#), supports the bill because, they feel it codifies both the right to read and the right to petition. They feel it's important that library materials allow people to see themselves represented in works that showcase a wide variety of views and viewpoints. As a psychologist they appreciate and respect the professionalism of librarians to responsibly curate materials. They are concerned with recent increases in book banning attempts and view this legislation as needed at this time to protect the freedom to read.

[Lisa Miceli](#), supports the bill because, they feel it codifies both the right to read and the right to petition. They feel it's important that library materials allow people to see themselves represented in works that showcase a wide variety of views and viewpoints. As a public library director, they believe it is important libraries have collection policies in place and feel the bill provides a solid set of guidelines. They strongly support the freedom to read.

[Amanda Micklus](#), supports the bill because, they feel it provides fair and clear policies for reviewing and challenging library materials. They believe libraries are important places where educational and recreational resources can be freely accessed. And as a trained librarian, they appreciate the professionalism of librarians to properly curate, and see protecting the right and freedom to read as critical.

[Julia Miller](#), supports the bill because, the wish to oppose book bans and censorship, and support the power of reading. They view the bill as protecting first amendment rights. They feel the guidelines established by the bill are fair and balanced.

[Barbara Meyer-Mitchell](#), supports the bill because, they feel it creates a policy that enables responsible curation and ensures a wide variety of materials representing many cultures are made accessible by the community. They view present attempts to ban books as attacks on truth and knowledge.

[Jennifer Mitchell](#), supports the bill because, they feel it codifies both the right to read and the right to petition. They feel it's important that library materials allow people to see themselves represented in works that showcase a wide variety of views and viewpoints. They say libraries are the heard of the community, an invaluable resource and deserve our support.

[Katie Rosa-Moher](#), supports the bill because, they feel librarians and library staff need to be supported in their efforts to ensure free, equal and open access to information, protected by the first amendment, to the entire community. They trust the professionalism of librarians and feel they deserve added protections. They say a parent can determine what their own child reads but should not have a say in what other children reads.

[Friends of Connecticut Libraries, President, Pamela Monahan](#), supports the bill because, they feel it codifies both the right to read and the right to petition. They feel it's important that library materials allow people to see themselves represented in works that showcase a wide variety of views and viewpoints.

[The Arts Council of GHNH, Program Director, Rebekah Moore](#), supports the bill because, they feel it codifies both the right to read and the right to petition. They feel it's important that library materials allow people to see themselves represented in works that showcase a wide variety of views and viewpoints. They appreciate libraires as key pillars of the community and appreciate the guidelines proposed by the bill for handling curation.

[Shannon Mykins](#), supports the bill because, they feel it crucially protects children from censorship and enables their freedom to read a wide variety of materials.

[Honorah Neill](#), supports the bill because, they feel it provides a good set of practices addressing library curation, and protects library staff and empowers them to do their jobs.

[Brittany Netherton](#), supports the bill because, they feel it codifies both the right to read and the right to petition. They feel it's important that library materials allow people to see themselves represented in works that showcase a wide variety of views and viewpoints.

[Michele Nichols](#), supports the bill because, they feel it codifies both the right to read and the right to petition. They feel it's important that library materials allow people to see themselves represented in works that showcase a wide variety of views and viewpoints.

[Michelle Noehren](#), supports the bill because, they feel it will empower librarians to curate responsibly, protect intellectual freedom, and limit current efforts to ban books.

[Else Obuchowski](#), supports the bill because, they feel it will help prevent book bans and protect librarians. They view the bills proposals as reasonable.



[Emma Okell](#), supports the bill because, they feel it codifies both the right to read and the right to petition. They feel it's important that library materials allow people to see themselves represented in works that showcase a wide variety of views and viewpoints.

[Parent, Amy Ordonez](#), supports the bill because, they feel it codifies both the right to read and the right to petition. They feel it's important that library materials allow people to see themselves represented in works that showcase a wide variety of views and viewpoints. They also cite the experience and professionalism, and training librarians have to responsibly curate materials.

[New Alliance Foundation, Executive Director, Maryann Ott](#), supports the bill because, removing and banning books leads to government censorship and erosion of freedom of expression. They feel it's important that library materials allow young people to see themselves represented in works that showcase a wide variety of views and viewpoints.

[Olga Pagan](#), supports the bill because, they feel it codifies both the right to read and the right to petition. They feel it's important that library materials allow people to see themselves represented in works that showcase a wide variety of views and viewpoints.

[HR Healthcare, VP, Heather Page](#), supports the bill because, they feel it codifies both the right to read and the right to petition. They feel it's important that library materials allow people to see themselves represented in works that showcase a wide variety of views and viewpoints. They are concerned with recent efforts to remove from circulation library materials that showcase LGBTQIA+ and BIPOC voices and feels the bill addresses this concern.

[Norwalk Public Schools, Coordinator of Digital Learning, Willetta Payton](#), supports the bill because they support freedom to read and says efforts to restrict certain books will have a negative impact on our children and their future.

[John Pellico](#), supports the bill because, they feel recent increases in book banning are part of an attempt to restrict information, discourage freedom of thought, and to censor education. They view the bill as necessary to protect free speech and free expression.

[Katie Pellico](#), supports the bill because, they strongly feel it provides needed protections to librarians to do their jobs, and to combat the recent rise in book banning attempts.

[Cadence Pentheny](#), supports the bill because, they feel it's important that library materials allow people to see themselves represented in works that showcase a wide variety of views and viewpoints.

[Jenny Perlman](#), supports the bill because, they feel it codifies both the right to read and the right to petition. They feel it's important that library materials allow people to see themselves represented in works that showcase a wide variety of views and viewpoints.

[Parent, Kristen Petroschius](#), supports the bill because, they feel it codifies both the right to read and the right to petition. They feel it's important that library materials allow people to see themselves represented in works that showcase a wide variety of views and viewpoints.

[The Gilbert School, Library Media Specialist, Karen Pfeffer](#), supports the bill because, they feel it is needed to protect the freedom to read, ensure our children are highly literate, to protect library specialists in their job duties, and to prevent censorship.

[Leslie Poulos](#), supports the bill because, they feel it codifies both the right to read and the right to petition by providing clear guidelines for both library material curation and challenging guidelines. They feel it's important that library materials allow people to see themselves represented in works that showcase a wide variety of views and viewpoints.

[Beverly Propen](#), supports the bill because, as a retired librarian, they support empowering everyone with the ability to read what they choose and feel this bill will help protect that right. [Jillian Puzzo](#), River Bend Bookshop, General Manager, supports the bill because, they say in an era of book bans and restricting ideas, this bill protects the first amendment rights for all members of the community. They feel it's important that library materials allow people to see themselves represented in works that showcase a wide variety of views and viewpoints.

[Ziv Quinzel](#), supports the bill because, they trust librarians to properly curate materials, object to book challenges that target BIPOC, AAPI and LGBTQ voices, and while they respect a parents right to determine what their own child reads, they do not believe they should determine what the children of other families read.

[Lelah Rabe](#), supports the bill because, they feel it codifies both the right to read and the right to petition. They feel it's important that library materials allow people to see themselves represented in works that showcase a wide variety of views and viewpoints. They are concerned with politically motivated petitions to remove materials and feel this bill empowered librarians to do their jobs and provides a fair response to material objections.

[William Reyor](#), supports the bill because, they feel it codifies both the right to read and the right to petition. They feel it's important that library materials allow people to see themselves represented in works that showcase a wide variety of views and viewpoints.

[Dondre Roberts](#), supports the bill because, they feel it's important that library materials allow people to see themselves represented in works that showcase a wide variety of views and viewpoints.

[Lisa Roberts](#), supports the bill because, they feel it codifies both the right to read and the right to petition. They feel it's important that library materials allow people to see themselves represented in works that showcase a wide variety of views and viewpoints.

[Jennifer Rocca](#), supports the bill because, they have dealt firsthand with book challenges from people who did not have children in the school district where they are a librarian. They feel the bill is needed because it does not limit a parent's ability to restrict what their own children read, but it does prevent others from imposing their views on what is or is not acceptable on the wider community. They also appreciate the bills measures to protect librarians from harassment which they have also personally endured.

[New Haven Public Schools, Lead Librarian, Kim Rogers](#), supports the bill because they are committed to promoting literacy and educational equity. They feel this bill is the right thing to do, for the children and all citizens of Connecticut.

[Dustin Rose](#), supports the bill because, they the government should not limit its citizens from knowledge and ban literature because some members of the community don't enjoy the material. They feel knowledge makes democracy strong.

[Karell Rose](#), supports the bill because, they feel it codifies both the right to read and the right to petition. They feel it's important that library materials allow people to see themselves represented in works that showcase a wide variety of views and viewpoints.

[West Haven Public Library, Library Assistant, Nicholas Roy](#), supports the bill because, they feel it's important that library materials allow people to see themselves represented in works that showcase a wide variety of views and viewpoints. They appreciate the bills plan to put statewide curation policies in place to ensure materials are curated and challenged fairly.

[Weld Royal](#), supports the bill because, they are opposed to censorship, and support intellectual freedom. They feel this bill protects those values and protects librarians and library staff.

[Alanna Rubin](#), supports the bill because, they feel it's important that library materials allow children to see themselves represented in works that showcase a wide variety of views and viewpoints. They also view the legislation as necessary due to recently increasing efforts to challenge books that represent LGBTQ+ themes.

[Casey Russo](#), supports the bill because, they feel it codifies both the right to read and the right to petition. They feel it's important that library materials allow people to see themselves represented in works that showcase a wide variety of views and viewpoints.

[Daniel Salvitto](#), supports the bill because, they feel it codifies both the right to read and the right to petition. They feel it's important that library materials allow people to see themselves represented in works that showcase a wide variety of views and viewpoints.

[Nicole Sanches](#), supports the bill because, they feel it codifies both the right to read and the right to petition. They feel it's important that library materials allow people to see themselves represented in works that showcase a wide variety of views and viewpoints.

[Victoria Sanches](#), supports the bill because, they feel it's important that library materials allow children to see themselves represented in works that showcase a wide variety of views and viewpoints. They view libraries as safe havens for learning and exploration.

[Becky Schoenfeld](#), supports the bill because, they feel everyone including children have the right to choose their own reading material. They respect the professionalism of librarians to responsibly curate materials. They believe libraries should be stocked with a wide variety of diverse materials that express different ideas, worldviews, and viewpoints.

[Trusting Readers, LLC, Jennifer Searls](#), supports the bill because, they are an advocate for intellectual freedom. They appreciate how the bill protects library staff and empowers them to

do their jobs. They feel the bill does not restrict the rights of parents to control what their own children read and does protect the community from being denied access to certain library materials certain individuals or groups disagree with.

[CASL, Elaine Shapiro](#), supports the bill because, they feel it codifies both the right to read and the right to petition. They feel it's important that library materials allow people to see themselves represented in works that showcase a wide variety of views and viewpoints.

[Youth Services Librarian, Abigail Simard](#), supports the bill because, they feel it codifies both the right to read and the right to petition. They feel it's important that library materials allow people to see themselves represented in works that showcase a wide variety of views and viewpoints.

[Southern CT State University, Associate Professor, Meredith Sinclair](#), supports the bill because, feel it's important that library materials allow people to see themselves represented in works that showcase a wide variety of views and viewpoints. They feel the bill protects the freedom to read, in a time they say they have been concerned with efforts to censor books that discuss the topics and issues of marginalized groups and communities. They feel the book does not limit the ability of parents to determine what their own child reads but prevents them to impose their views on the entire community.

[Hilary Sisco](#), supports the bill because, they feel it's important that library materials allow people to see themselves represented in works that showcase a wide variety of views and viewpoints. They view the legislation as common sense, protecting the rights of parents to parent, the rights of everyone to read, and establishes a fair policy for library material curation.

[Middletown Pride, Organizer, Brianna Skowera](#), supports the bill because, they feel it codifies both the right to read and the right to petition. They feel it's important that library materials allow people to see themselves represented in works that showcase a wide variety of views and viewpoints. They are concerned with recent efforts to remove from circulation library materials that showcase LGBTQIA+ and BIPOC voices and feels the bill addresses this concern. They also appreciate the bills efforts to protect the safety of library staffers.

[Irene Skrybailo](#), supports the bill because, they are against book bans and censorship, and wish to protect the freedom to read. They feel the policies the bill outlines protect parents, students, librarians and educators alike.

[Ledyard Public Schools, Library Media Specialist, Kathleen Smith](#), supports the bill because, they feel it's important that library materials allow people to see themselves represented in works that showcase a wide variety of views and viewpoints. They say the bill protects children's first amendment rights to read and learn and prevents select individuals who object to certain materials from preventing the children of the entire community from accessing them.

[Ryan Soller](#), supports the bill because, they support free speech and helping people expand their worldview.

[Vickilynne Squires](#), supports the bill because, they feel it codifies both the right to read and the right to petition. They feel it's important that library materials allow people to see themselves represented in works that showcase a wide variety of views and viewpoints.

[Willington Public Library, Director, Steve Osier \(Jones\)](#), supports the bill because, they feel it codifies both the right to read and the right to petition.

[Jackie Stone](#), supports the bill because, they feel it's important that library materials allow people to see themselves represented in works that showcase a wide variety of views and viewpoints and feel the bill will also safeguard against frivolous complaints and protect librarians' abilities to do their jobs.

[Saxton B Little Free Library, Library Director, Julie Styles](#), supports the bill because, they feel it codifies both the right to read and the right to petition. They feel it's important that library materials allow people to see themselves represented in works that showcase a wide variety of views and viewpoints.

[West Haven Public Library, Head of Youth Services, Amy Sullivan](#), supports the bill because, they feel it codifies both the right to read and the right to petition. They feel it's important that library materials allow people to see themselves represented in works that showcase a wide variety of views and viewpoints. They trust trained library professionals to responsibly curate works and are concerned with an increase in challenges to books in recent years targeting marginalized groups and communities.

[Ms. Kari Swanson](#), supports the bill because, they view limiting the availability of select materials as a violation of librarian code of ethics and a violation of the freedom to read. They support the ability and professionalism of librarians to responsibly curate materials.

[Frederick Sweitzer](#), supports the bill because, they no member of the community or group has the right to impose their views on which materials they can or cannot read on the rest of the community. They feel it's important that library materials allow people to see themselves represented in works that showcase a wide variety of views and viewpoints.

[Library Volunteer, J. Sylvia](#), supports the bill because, they feel it codifies both the right to read and the right to petition. They feel it's important that library materials allow people to see themselves represented in works that showcase a wide variety of views and viewpoints. They appreciate how the bill empowers library professionals to do their jobs as trained. They view restricting access to select materials as a free speech violation.

[Retired Teacher, Deborah Tagliatela](#), supports the bill because, they feel it codifies both the right to read and the right to petition. They feel it's important that library materials allow people to see themselves represented in works that showcase a wide variety of views and viewpoints.

[Concerned Parent, Lauren Tagliatela](#), supports the bill because, they feel the bill ensures no group of parents can have a say in which books the entire community can access. They feel it's important that library materials allow people to see themselves represented in works that showcase a wide variety of views and viewpoints.

[Kate Tarrant](#), supports the bill because, they feel it's important that library materials allow people to see themselves represented in works that showcase a wide variety of views and viewpoints.

[Published Author-Simon Schuster, S.J. Taylor](#), supports the bill because, they feel it's important that library materials allow people to see themselves represented in works that showcase a wide variety of views and viewpoints.

[Lindsey Tengtenga](#), supports the bill because they support the right to read and the right to petition and as a teacher and librarian, they point out the guidelines and requirements they already have to follow when curating materials. They feel this bill will provide statewide guidelines making it fair to curate and challenge materials. They also feel the bill empowers parents and does not detract from their rights.

[Retired Reading Specialist, Rose Tiernan](#), supports the bill because, they feel it codifies both the right to read and the right to petition. They feel it's important that library materials allow people to see themselves represented in works that showcase a wide variety of views and viewpoints. They feel the bill will also protect the good work being done by library professionals.

[Rachel Tomassone](#), supports the bill because, they feel it's the job of a parent to decide what their child reads, and a librarian's job to make all books available to everyone, not to parent.

[Kaitlin Tredway](#), supports the bill because, they feel it codifies both the right to read and the right to petition. They feel it's important that library materials allow people to see themselves represented in works that showcase a wide variety of views and viewpoints.

[Griselle Venegas](#), supports the bill because, as a parent of a trans boy, they feel its important they see themselves represented not only in school, but in library literature.

[Arts Council of Greater New Haven, Executive Director, Hope Vez](#), supports the bill because, they feel it codifies both the right to read and the right to petition. They feel it's important that library materials allow people to see themselves represented in works that showcase a wide variety of views and viewpoints.

[K W](#), supports the bill because, they believe the best way a society grows is through open access to information, via materials that showcase all perspectives and viewpoints.

[Clint Walker](#), supports the bill because, they feel it codifies both the right to read and the right to petition. They feel it's important that library materials allow children to see themselves represented in works that showcase a wide variety of views and viewpoints.

[Zachary Wargo](#), supports the bill because, they feel it codifies both the right to read and the right to petition. They feel it's important that library materials allow children to see themselves represented in works that showcase a wide variety of views and viewpoints.

[Chrishana White](#), supports the bill because, they feel it protects and codifies both the right to read and the right to petition. They feel library professionals should be trusted to responsibly curate materials and believe libraries should have materials that showcase a wide range of views and experiences.



[Robyn Whittingham](#), supports the bill because, they feel it creates a fair set of standardized policies for making decisions on library materials. They see the bill as protecting schools and libraries from restricting access to materials.

[The Westport Library, President of the Board, Patricia Wieser](#), supports the bill because, they say it protects the right to read and the right to petition. They say the bill does not limit a parents right to monitor what their own child reads.

[Authors Against Book Bans, Rebecca Wiley](#), supports the bill because, they say more than half of recent book ban attempts nationally targeted books that showcased LGBTQIA+ and BIPOC voices, and they feel children have a right to be exposed to library books that showcase a wide variety of opinions and voices.

[Victoria Woodard](#), supports the bill because, they feel efforts to restrict access to certain literature is an abuse of our system, and diminishes freedoms.

[Educator, Erin Woodin](#), supports the bill because, they feel it protects and codifies both the right to read and the right to petition. They feel library professionals should be trusted to responsibly curate materials and believe libraries should have materials that showcase a wide range of views and experiences. They see the library as an indispensable center of factual information and differing perspectives.

[Betsy Yagla](#), supports the bill because, they feel it protects and codifies both the right to read and the right to petition. They feel library professionals should be trusted to responsibly curate materials and believe libraries should have materials that showcase a wide range of views and experiences.

[Library Media Specialist, Kristin Yeakel](#), supports the bill because, they feel it protects and codifies both the right to read and the right to petition. They feel library professionals should be trusted to responsibly curate materials and believe libraries should have materials that showcase a wide range of views and experiences.

[Lisa Yelon](#), supports the bill because, they feel it codifies both the right to read and the right to petition. They feel its important that library materials allow children to see themselves represented in works that showcase a wide variety of views and viewpoints.

[ACLU, Policy Counsel, Jess Zaccagnino](#), supports the bill because, they are unilaterally opposed to censorship, and wish to protect the constitutional rights of all young persons. They say the bill is needed to combat increasing attempts to censor libraries into removing books that cover marginalized groups. They believe the bill would protect both the right to read and the right to petition.

#### **NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:**

[Seven individuals submitted written testimony anonymously](#), opposing this bill, citing a belief that parents have the right to be fully aware of the content their children are viewing in library and school library books, and a belief that children should not have access to sexual education books without the fully informed consent of their parents or legal guardian.

[Rosemarie Costa](#) opposes this bill, because they feel the opinions of parents, guardians or adults that oppose selects books and materials from being on public display or available for the public to check out, should be considered and taken seriously.

[Nicholas Coppola](#) opposes this bill because they feel the bills intention is to remove the school libraries from public oversight, and they do not believe librarians should be shielded from consequence if they are not using good judgement, common sense, or pushing their own viewpoints. They clarify, they feel there should be different standards in regards towards available materials, in school libraries, vs public libraries.

[Teacher, Children's Author and Publisher, Library Assistant, Library Aide, and Mother Mona Colwell](#), opposes the bill because they feel their local library, Old Lyme, has many books on display for middle school aged children that they feel discuss or have illustrations depicting human sexuality that they feel are not appropriate for public view by non-adults. They feel this legislation protects libraries and does not protect youth.

[Managing Editor, Refine CatholicVote, Erika Ahern](#), opposes the legislation because they feel it does not address the issue of children's access to pornographic material in books and they say early exposure to sexual images can have adverse long-term effects. They also feel the bill diminishes the rights of parents to express concern or challenge books with sexual content in school libraries.

[Laura Alasso](#) is opposed to this bill, because they feel the legislation harms the ability of parents, grandparents, and the greater community to challenge books they deem sexually explicit and vulgar, which they feel is a violation of free speech.

[Woodbury Parent and Resident, Lisa Amatruda](#), opposes the bill because they don't feel the state should be involved in the decisions of individual towns to curate certain books, and that the bill impacts parents' rights.

[Linda Dalessio](#) strongly opposes the bill because they feel librarians should not be protected from allowing certain material to be viewed by children.

[Fairfield Resident, Jennifer Damon](#) opposes the bill because they feel it protects select materials and persons who support the availability of select materials, which are contradictory to their religious beliefs. They do not feel the bill protects children.

[Steph Debart](#) opposes the bill because they feel it restricts parents' rights to determine what materials their children can access.

[Getachew Dires](#), opposes the bill, because their feel it undermines the collective roles of the local Board of Education, and parental rights, by restricting citizen input in library curation. They feel it's a violation of free speech.

[Debbie Esposito](#), opposes the bill, because they say no adult other than a child's own parent, should have the right to allow a child to access certain materials.

[Barbara Fairbanks](#), opposes the bill because they feel the bill erases barriers that currently exist to empower parents and community members to prevent children and students from

accessing sexual material and feels the bill is designed to prevent parents from challenging books due to fear of lawsuits.

[Chris Fike](#), strongly opposes the bill, because they feel it blurs the critical distinction between banning books and ensuring that school libraries provide age-appropriate materials. They feel the bill will potentially allow books with graphic or adult themes in spaces meant for young readers. They consider this a matter of child safety.

[Mount Carmel School, Teacher, Marlane Fitzgerald](#), opposes the bill because they feel it limits parental rights to have a voice in what their children's school libraries display.

[Suzanne Freniere](#), opposes the bill, because they feel the government and schools do not have the authority, to dictate what their children read in any capacity.

[New Haven Free Public Library Foundation, Board Member, Sarah Ficca](#), neither supports or opposes the bill, but is concerned that while the bill's intentions are noble and they agree with them, they are concerned if passed, the policies the bill would codify could be used to promote materials that spread conspiracy theories or allow harmful ideologies, to go unchecked.

[Killingly Town Councilman, Patti George](#), strongly opposes the bill, because they feel it will make no officials or library staffers accountable for children and students being exposed to select materials. They say the bill will harm children and lead them susceptible to losing their influence.

[Manju Gerber](#), opposes the bill because they state it's an overreach that violates first amendment rights. They say it takes rights away from parents, undermines their authority to parent and gives it to librarians.

[Jason Glass](#), opposes the bill because they say it would punish parents, children and community members who object vulgar materials being exposed to children in Connecticut libraries. They say current laws are sufficient to protect librarians from harassment. They say the purpose of the bill is to intimidate parents to be silent regarding book challenges.

[C H](#) opposes the bill, stating they feel the bill endangers children, restricts parental rights, and undermines the democratic process. They feel the bill removes legal safeguards between children and those who may expose them to materials some may deem inappropriate.

[Peter Haddad](#) opposes the bill because they feel the legislation is ill-conceived, and that it harms the rights of parents to oppose library materials to they feel may be inappropriate for children.

[Gayle Harris](#), opposes the bill, because they feel their local Board of Education, not the state, should have a role in determining which books are acceptable for display.

[Greenwich Patriots, Jackie Homan](#), strongly opposes the bill because they feel the bill will empower and enable libraries to keep inappropriate materials on display for young children without restriction. They feel the bill punishes parents, students, and community members who may find certain materials objectionable, and violates their freedom of speech.

[North Haven Resident, Marilina Imperati](#), opposes the bill, because they feel it erases barriers to protecting children from select library materials that some may deem inappropriate, by preventing parents and the community from objecting from select materials being available in libraries. They view the bill as a violation of their right to free speech.

[Charles Irwin](#), opposes the bill because they feel the law is unnecessary, stating the 113 books challenged in Connecticut in 2023 is a very small number. They feel the law would prevent parents and community members from challenging certain materials which they feel is a violation of their Constitutional right to free speech.

[Doug Kechijian](#), opposes the bill, because they feel it will restrict the ability of parents and community members to challenge books in schools and libraries, they find vulgar or sexually explicit, and they consider this a violation of constitutional rights, chiefly free speech.

[Tom Kenyon](#), opposes the bill, because they oppose allowing children to view materials that they view as inappropriate, explicit, or vulgar

[Tia Kollars](#), opposes the bill because they want to protect children from viewing materials they view as inappropriate, and that they feel current systems in place are sufficient to challenge books.

[Connecticut Catholic Public Affairs Conference, Associate Director, Anne LaMonica](#) opposes the bill because, they feel the language of the bill is vague and threatens government intrusion in the operation of private schools which they say violates freedom of speech and religion constitutional protections. They fear the bill would prevent Catholic Schools from removing materials in accordance with the beliefs and practices of the church and circumvent the voices of parents to object to materials.

[Tory Lamore](#) opposes the bill because, they say libraries are funded by tax dollars, and therefore citizens have a right to oppose a book for any reason.

[Vira M.](#) opposes the bill because, they say parents have the right to raise their own children based on their own moral value system.

[Connecticut Republican Assembly, National Director, Anne Manusky, M.Ed.](#), opposes the bill because, citing the US Constitution and the CT State Constitution, they believe parents have the right to raise their children as they see fit. They oppose obscene materials being accessible by children in libraries.

[Stephen Mendelsohn](#), opposes the bill because, they say a majority of librarians have a liberal bias when it comes to curating materials, which could allow materials they view as obscene to be accessible to children. They feel the bill violates the constitutional rights of ordinary citizens to participate in the process of curation.

[Laura Miller](#), opposes the bill because, on the grounds they feel it is a violation of free speech, because the "threat of suit" the bill would implement would deter people who object to certain materials from speaking out.

[Mary Nagy](#), opposes the bill because, they feel the bill is an attempt to silence concerned parents and the public from having a voice in the materials found within school libraries. They feel the bill erases important barriers that exist at present, that allow the community a say in book curation to prevent children from viewing materials they see as obscene. They view the bill as a violation of free speech.

[Mr. Nick Postovoit](#), opposes the bill because, they feel it harms children and the rights of parents. They say the bill is a misguided attempt to prevent people from removing books from libraries they view as obscene, and especially library materials that can be accessed by children. They say the bill violates the constitutional principles of elected officials to protect and serve the public interest.

[Gay Rights Advocate, R.J. Preece](#), opposes the bill because, they see the bill as an attempt from far-left activists to implement their ideology, saying they wish to censor the voices of those who dissent from their opinion.

[Kathleen Randall](#), opposes the bill because, they see it as a waste of time, and they say it limits parental rights and allows obscene materials in school and town libraries. They say the number of book challenges to CT libraries in 2023, 113, is an exceptionally small number. They do not feel all librarians can be trusted to display materials appropriate for children, especially in school libraries. They say the bill limits the rights of parents and the community to challenge materials.

[Connecticut State Representative Candidate, 24<sup>th</sup> District, Christine Rebstock](#), opposes the bill because, they say it will give librarians full autonomy over what books can be added or removed, over the wishes of the public or the local school board.

[Foundation Against Intolerance and Racism \(FAIR\), COO, Danele Rhoads](#), opposes the bill because, they say it is a violation of a citizen's parental and first amendment rights. They say the bill infringes on the rights of all citizens to have a say in the library curation process.

[Jessica Richardson](#), opposes the bill because, they say the bill will punish parents and community members who object to obscene materials for children in our libraries. They specifically state the provision of the bill that mentions potential legal action exists to intimidate persons who may object some materials into silence. They feel current laws are sufficient to protect library staffers from harassment, and they current procedures to challenge books are sufficient.

[Christian Rollins](#), opposes the bill because, they feel it infringes on their right to protect their children from explicit materials.

[Dwight Rollins](#), opposes the bill because, they feel it will take away rights of parents.

[Mr. Ted Samodel](#), opposes the bill because, as a public-school educator, parent and Christian, they object to allowing teachers and librarians, whom they believe to agree with far-left ideologies from presenting objectionable materials to children, without incrimination, which they say this bill would enable them to do.

[Jane Sarris](#), opposes the bill because they feel is enables libraries to have obscene materials accessible to children.

[Katherine Sarris](#), opposes the bill because, they say the bill criminalizes anyone who scrutinizes the curation choices made by librarians. They oppose obscene materials being accessible by children.

[Suzan Sarris](#), opposes the bill because, they say it prevents parents and members of the community from challenging books they view as obscene in school and public libraries. They say the bill erases existing barriers that allow these aforementioned parties to have a say. They say the bill gives authority and immunity to librarians, to the detriment of the community, which they disagree with. They view this bill as a violation of free speech.

[Lucas Stock](#), opposes the bill because, they say parents should retain the right to remove books they view as obscene from school libraries.

[Shannon Turner](#), opposes the bill because, they are a concerned mother, because they say they have seen materials they view as obscene, accessible by their child at the library or via the digital library Hoopla app. They say librarians are failing public trust in material curation by allowing content they view as age inappropriate for children, being accessible by children. They feel the bill provides protection for government works from accountability and threatens parents with legal action for speaking out.

[Family Institute of Connecticut, Director of Public Policy, Leslie Wolfgang](#), opposes the bill because, they say the bill is extremist and punishes parents and community members, and effectively bans them from the process of library material curation. They disagree with the potential lawsuits people who challenge materials may face and disagree with the additional protections the bill would provide librarians.

[Kim Yannon](#), opposes the bill because they say parents deserve the right to challenge sexually explicit books without being sued.

**Reported by: Alex Sferrazza & Christian Talarski    Date: 3/31/25**