

Hello, my name is _____ and I am [a mother of ____ children who all attended this school district] [or] [a resident of this district]. I'm also a member of the American Association of University Women, [branch name].

As Americans, we all have the fundamental right to raise our children and instill our values in them. As parents, we can and should play an active role in supporting our children's education. We have the right to tell our own children what they can and can't read. But I do not have the right to determine how you raise your children, nor what your child can read. Our freedoms stop when they infringe on the rights and freedoms of others. My rights do not supersede yours, nor do your rights supersede mine.

In America, we have always recognized that people will not always agree. That is why our founding fathers advocated for and wrote the First Amendment, which protects the freedom of religion, freedom of speech, and freedom of the press.

Our country was founded on the principles of freedom of speech and the marketplace of ideas. Restricting access to books not only violates these principles but also hinders our children's ability to develop critical thinking skills and understand diverse perspectives.

In every public space, including public schools, our children are exposed to people from various backgrounds who have a variety of identities. The targeting against marginalized groups is disheartening. We are a diverse country filled with differing beliefs and it is not my place, nor yours, nor the school district's to dictate whose beliefs are right and whose should be oppressed.

Our individual rights are protected so far as they don't suppress anyone else's rights, and imposing one's beliefs on morality through censorship of reading materials in schools is an act of suppressing other children's rights to self-expression, access to knowledge, and to practice their own beliefs. While every parent has the right to guide their own child's reading, we cannot impose our individual standards on an entire school community.
Thank you