

From: [Julie Fales](#)
To: [House Education](#)
Subject: HB 2700
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February 12, 2024

Members of the Education Committee:

As a patron, grandparent and library-media specialist in Kansas, I oppose HB 2700. The bill is redundant and performative. Library-media staff across the state train to maintain robust and inclusive book collections that represent ALL students. They offer patrons a variety of options so all children can see themselves in a book, as well as learn about people and places they might never otherwise encounter. Students need a wide range of books in their school library because each child is unique, ready to read at different levels and deserves to educational and entertainment options. An arbitrary rating system limits that choice.

If parents choose to take an active role in their child's reading life they can access book reviews, summaries, guidance online or from knowledgeable educators. If parents choose, they can monitor THEIR child's book checkout according to THEIR families' values. Library educators are open to working with parents who choose to limit THEIR child's book options. HB 2700 is unnecessary.

Why waste taxpayer money and a school district's time because parents choose not to take an active role in their child's reading life? Parents wanting to rely on an arbitrary book rating system assigned by the state are simply wanting an easy way out. If they don't believe their children are capable of determining what they are interested in, what they want to learn and what they want to discover, then parents can dictate what books THEIR children read.

America is founded on freedom and liberty. HB 2700 limits parents freedom to allow their children to have access to a wide range of

educational and entertainment materials. Don't bastardize the great tradition of America's libraries by labeling books according to a limited view point of arbitrary evaluators.

Oppose HB 2700 and keep access to information as our Founding Fathers intended - open to all.

Thank you for your time,

Julie Fales
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Library-Media Specialist