

Dear **[insert district name here]** School Board,

I am writing to you as a concerned **[student/parent/community member]**.

It has recently come to my attention that **[insert title of book and author]** was removed from school **[libraries/curriculum]**. I understand that this decision was made for the book's reference to **[insert description of why the book was removed (LGBTQ+ or BIPOC characters, themes, etc)]**.

I believe that removing this book would be a terrible disservice to your students. **[If you have read the book, insert I have read [book title here] and I believe it is a valuable book for students to read because....]**.

All students have a right to read and learn free from censorship. The First Amendment protects the right of students to learn about the history and viewpoints of all communities. It also protects the right of both educators and students to receive and exchange information and knowledge. Book bans are misguided attempts to suppress First Amendment rights and ultimately prevent students from exploring new ideas and perspectives in their schools.

In 2024, Governor Walz signed Minn. Stat. § 134.51 into law. The law prohibits a public library, including those operated jointly with a school district, from banning a book “solely on its viewpoint or the messages, ideas, or opinions it conveys.” By removing **[insert book title]** for **[insert reason here]**, the **[insert school district]** likely violated Minnesota law.

Not everyone in our community shares the views of those opposed to **[insert title here]**. **[One parent/individual/group]** should not decide what other people's kids can read, and any restriction or removal of books from this school's libraries undermines the right of every other parent in this school district to make a choice about their child.

All students benefit from having access to inclusive teaching where students can freely learn and talk about all communities in this country. Book bans and classroom censorship efforts, including the ban of **[insert title here]**, erase the lived experiences of **[LGBTQ+ or BIPOC people]** and censor important discussions that impact people's daily lives.

Thank you for the work you continue to do to support students in this district. I strongly urge you to reconsider the removal of this book and to uphold the freedom to read for all students in our community

Regards,

[insert name]

