

Carol Rowsemit - Indivisible Rhode Island

Freedom to Read Act S0238

I stand FOR the Freedom to Read bill.

I remember the little boy in my daughter's preschool. From the moment I met him, I wondered if he'd be gay. The year these kids started college, his family's Christmas letter announced that he'd come out as gay that year. His family was very accepting.

Years later, there was my next-door neighbor – a teenage girl who knew in her heart that she was born in the wrong body. Her family, not so accepting. Mom didn't fully understand, and Dad didn't want to hear of it.

Many of these children become tortured souls from early childhood on if they think there's no one else like them in the world. How many suicides occur because of this isolation? How helpful it will be if they can access books to let them know they aren't alone. While I know there are people who believe being gay or trans is a choice, just listen to some of them explain how their life has been.

Let's not ban books. Please support The Freedom to Read Act (Senate bill S0238 and House bill H5726 by contacting your elected officials.