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Senate Bill S 0238– “The Freedom to Read Bill”

My name is Charlee Burke, I am a sophomore in high school and a youth leader at ARISE. I am writing this testimony in support of Senate Bill S 0238.

Throughout my years in school my favorite classroom activity has always been reading. One book I read in school that has stuck with me is *Inside Out and Back Again*, a book about a Vietnamese family adjusting to life in America and overcoming racism and cultural differences. Not only did this book teach me about a new perspective that I had never previously thought about, I still remember reading it vividly years later.

Inside Out and Back Again is not a banned book, but many novels that cover topics such as immigration, racism, and identity are. Taking away these books limits kids' education on the experiences and perspectives of people from different identities. I ask that you continue to support Senate Bill S 0238 to ensure that children have access to these books and can learn from them in the same ways I did.

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