



April 3rd, 2025

Senate Bill S 0238- "The Freedom to Read Bill"

My name is Juan Luciano and I am a Youth Leader at ARISE. I am writing to support Senate Bill S 0238. I am writing not only as a Youth Leader, but as an eldest brother and a friend to many of my peers. A book that is held dear to one of my closest friends is *The Kite Runner*, because it showed her a perspective outside of being a kid in America. Instead, it showed her what life would be like as a kid in Afghanistan. Banning these books would affect that friend from learning a new story and a new perspective and would affect other friends with similar stories.

Banning books affects my siblings and their access to knowledge. Taking history from them by banning these books is like slamming doors of opportunities in their faces. I am blessed to have been born during a time where I can understand the value of these books and fight for my siblings to have the same access to education from books as I had. That is why I ask that you continue to support Senate Bill S 0238.

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