



ARISE

Apr 3rd, 2025

House Bill HB 5726– “The Freedom to Read Bill”

To the House Committee,

Hello, my name is Nyree-Simone LaFortune, and I am writing in support of prohibiting book bans. Having free access to books has truly shaped how I see life today. The freedom to read has helped me connect with ideas and perspectives beyond just people around me.

Books have always held a special place in my heart, and the ability to read what I want has had a major impact on that. Books are meant to express ideas and feelings in a way that is open to everyone, not to be hidden or restricted.

An influential book in my life happens to be one of the banned books, Charlotte’s Web. While some lawmakers see it as a “threat,” my mom and I saw it as something that brought us together. Books like this, which are at risk of being banned, have shaped the person I am today. Removing them doesn’t just take away stories; it takes away pieces of people’s lives and identities.

I urge you to recognize that books are only as harmful as the fear projected onto them. My childhood memories, and those of many others, will never pose a danger to you.

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