



April 3rd, 2025
In Favor of HB5726

My name is Michelle and I am a Youth Leader at ARISE and I am writing to support HB5726.

This bill is important to me because I come from a family where all they want me to do is make it somewhere big in life. A book ban would prevent me from doing so. I personally love to read in my free time and while doing so I gain knowledge and see things from a different perspective on various topics. Being able to read a book that talks about my experience as a Black-Dominican is important to me. It makes me feel like I can relate to someone's experiences of being a language learner. Going into a school everyday, where everyone spoke English is difficult for me. It is difficult not only for me, but also my non-English speaking parents who have had to adjust to life in America. This is something that is a huge part of my identity and who I am as a person.

Why should people that haven't gone through the same experiences I have gone through, have the power to take away books that comfort and validate me. I know there are many others that read books as a way to feel seen, so they have a narrative to relate to. I ask that you continue to support HB5726 because taking away books people connect to, is like taking away a part of who they are and how they identify.

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