

What Supporters and Advocates Are Saying About Rep. Raskin and Sen. Schatz's Banned Book Resolution

“The increasing efforts to remove books from library shelves are deeply troubling. These actions represent a direct attack on Americans’ constitutional right to free speech and pose a threat to the health of our democracy,” **said Brooks Rainwater, President and CEO of the Urban Libraries Council.** “Public libraries are designed to be welcoming places where we can safely confront challenging ideas, encounter diverse cultures, ask questions, and ultimately grow as more informed and empathetic citizens. They are essential pillars of our communities, our nation, and the foundation of our democracy.”

“We must confront unconstitutional censorship in our public libraries and schools. Book bans undermine the First Amendment and threaten core American values of liberty and self-determination. This Resolution by Congressman Raskin and Senator Schatz sends a vital message: we must protect the rights of all Americans to explore a wide range of voices and stories free from government interference. EveryLibrary stands firmly against acts of censorship and supports this Resolution as a way to safeguard freedom in every community,” **said John Chrastka, Executive Director of EveryLibrary.**

“Censorship is a religious freedom issue — book banning is a political strategy that could silence diverse religious voices and traditions that are a major part of the rich social fabric of America,” **said Rev. Paul Brandeis Raushenbush, President and CEO of Interfaith Alliance.** “Sadly, many who want to ban books use religion as their excuse to target LGBTQIA+ voices, communities of color, and many others. In fact, most people of faith and conscience in this country oppose these harmful efforts – and stand firmly behind the right to read.”

“At this moment of rising hate and threats to our democracy, extremists are taking a page right out of the authoritarian playbook -- leveraging fear in order to deprive students of their fundamental freedom to learn and build a better future. The Jewish community understands precisely where these book bans can lead, whether they target books on the Holocaust, slavery, LGBTQ history, or more. We're grateful to Rep. Raskin and Sen. Schatz for their critical leadership during Banned Books Week and every other week of the year,” **said Amy Spitalnick, CEO of the Jewish Council for Public Affairs.**

“The Sikh Coalition is proud to support Representative Raskin and Senator Schatz's bicameral resolution condemning book bans. These bans—which often target marginalized communities, including Sikh authors—threaten the pursuit of knowledge and silence certain narratives for political reasons. This resolution reaffirms our commitment to creating safe and inclusive classrooms where students can engage with diverse perspectives and where all stories are heard,” **said Harman Singh, Executive Director of the Sikh Coalition.**

“Access to literature is not just a privilege; it’s a fundamental right that fuels creativity, critical thinking, and informed citizenship. The National Coalition Against Censorship Youth Free Expression Program is thrilled to champion this resolution, igniting our partners and the Right to

Read Network in their vital mission to safeguard First Amendment freedoms for all,” **said Christine Emeran, Director of the Youth Free Expression Program.** “Together, we stand united in the belief that every voice deserves to be heard and every story deserves to be told!”

“Limiting student access to books infringes on a well-rounded education. It also diminishes the professional expertise of teachers to identify books that meet learning objectives and that are of high interest to students. Freedom to read ensures we are a society guided by inquiry and understanding rather than fear,” **said Emily Kirkpatrick, Executive Director, National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE).**

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