Legislative Fact Sheet-Talking Points

US Forum

National Legislative Seminar, 2024

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Bill Title and Number: Fight Book Bans Act-[H.R. 6592](https://www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/house-bill/6592/cosponsors?s=2&r=2&q=%7B%22search%22%3A%22Book+Bans%2C+Frost%22%7D)

Related to Issue Identified by DKG Members: Censorship of Speech, Materials, Books

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| ***Details about this Bill*** | **Response** |
| *Date Introduced* | 12/05/2023 |
| *Submitted by* | Rep. Maxwell Frost (FL) |
| *Current Status* | Introduced: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_  In Committee: Referred to House Committee on education and the Workforce  Other: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |
| *Companion Bill #* | None |
| *Current Sponsors* | (50-See List Attached) |
| *Next Hearing Scheduled* | None scheduled |

Brief Bill Description (as is - up to 3 sentences, lay language, concise)

This bill would authorize the Secretary of Education to provide grants to local educational agencies to cover the costs of challenges to determinations not to discontinue the use of specific instructional materials, or the availability of specific school library materials, in public elementary and secondary schools, and for other purposes.

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| ***Talking Points*** |  |
| ***TP 1*** | Banning books in public schools is a dangerous infringement on students’ First Amendment right to access information. Robust and diverse school libraries are critical to ensuring that all students, regardless of their family’s income, education, race, or geographic location, have free and open access to the vast world of information each book contains**.”  (Leventoff, J. Senior Policy Counsel, ACLU).** |
| ***TP 2*** | During the 2022-23 school year, book bans were put into effect in 153 districts in 33 states. Florida school districts accounted for more than 40% of all book bans. (PEN America) |
| ***TP 3*** | The increasing number of challenges to classroom and media center books and instructional materials brought to School Boards by parents and community members has turned the classroom into a battleground pitting teachers against parents. The results of this campaign to restrict access to books is an increased number of reports by teachers of job-related stress, weakened parent-school partnerships, and a loss of respect for the teaching profession. |
| ***TP 4*** | **The Fight Books Bans Act has been endorsed by**PEN America, ACLU National, American Library Association, Interfaith Alliance, The Trevor Project, Catholics for Choice, Color of Change, National Urban League, UnidosUS, Equality Florida, Florida Freedom to Read Project, Students Engaged in Advancing Texas (SEAT), and NAACP DC. |

*Co-Sponsors and Related Bills:*

**The legislation has been cosponsored by** Reps. Adams (NC-12), Aguilar (CA-33), Bera (CA-06), Blumenauer (OR-03), Bowman (NY-16), Brown (OH-11), Carson (IN-07), Casar (TX-35), Casten (IL-06), Castor (FL-14), Castro (TX-20), Cherfilus-McCormick (FL-20), Clarke (NY-09), Crockett (TX-30), Frankel (FL-22), Garcia (CA-42), Goldman (NY-10), Horsford (NV-04), Ivey (MD-04), Jackson Lee (TX-18), Jacobs (CA-51), Johnson (GA-04), Khanna (CA-17), Lee (CA-12), Lee (PA-12), Moskowitz (FL-23), Norton (DC), Ocasio-Cortez (NY-14), Payne, Jr. (NJ-10), Peters (CA-50), Pettersen (CO-7), Pocan (WI-02), Porter (CA-47), Pressley (MA-07), Ramirez (IL-03), Schakowsky (IL-9), Sewell (AL-07), Soto (FL-9), Stansbury (NM-01), Takano (CA-39), Thanedar (MI-13), Titus (NV-01), Tlaib (MI-12), Tokuda (HI-02), Velázquez (NY-07), Wasserman Schultz (FL-25), Watson Coleman (NJ-12), Williams (GA-05).

**Related Bills:**

[H.R.6830](https://www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/house-bill/6830?q=%7B%22search%22%3A%22Book+Bans%22%7D&s=1&r=8) — 118th Congress (2023-2024)**Books Save Lives Act Sponsor:** [Pressley, Ayanna [Rep.-D-MA-7]](https://www.congress.gov/member/ayanna-pressley/P000617?q=%7B%22search%22%3A%22Book+Bans%22%7D) (Introduced 12/14/2023)