

Casey Kruger

Mr. Or Madame Chair and members of the committee, my name is Casey J. Kruger from Valley City. I am 18 years old and attend Valley City High School. I stand in negation of this bill because it is blatantly disregarding of past accepted regulations for public libraries and is a gross violation of every citizens first amendment rights. I cannot help but draw correlations between the wording of this bill and the actions of past dictatorships and facist states. On May 10th members of the German Student Union, a group affiliated with the Nazi German party, stormed the Institute of Sexology. According to the Holocaust Memorial Day Trust, this institute was a champion of homosexual rights and sex-related research, the members looted and burned hundreds of books involving, but not limited too, Sexual intercourse, Sex preferences, postpubertal human genitals, sexual identity, and gender identity. Now, this act does not necessarily ban all books that may cover these topics, but it opens the doors for members of the Student Union to come streaming in to our libraries. My generation has not grown up in a world that has known book burning, we have not seen or experienced the terrors of authoritarian rule on the other side of the world. But we know it is wrong. And we know who is responsible for restricting our access to knowledge. We know our friends that will be hurt by this legislation. And we will remember. We will remember in 2 years, 4, 6, 8, however long it takes to remove those who have damaged our society. We will remember.