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# RALLY

**From** We Believe  
**Date** September 10, 2024  
**Re** Banned Books Week Open Letter

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## NATIONAL BANNED BOOKS WEEK

This year for Banned Books Week (September 22 - September 28), We Believe is partnering with organizations like yours to keep the freedom to learn alive in our public schools. As more and more books—from *Where the Wild Things Are* to Toni Morrison’s *Beloved*—come under attack from extremist politicians and special interest groups, we must join together to reaffirm our support for public libraries, diverse books, and the value they bring to our communities.

That is why we are launching a “Banned Books Open Letter” directed at state lawmakers to voice our opposition to book bans across the country. This is a coordinated petition among organizations that reach community members, educators, parents, and other affected groups in support of the freedom to learn. Later, we’ll share metrics from the petition with partners like you to highlight evidence of public sentiment against book bans.

## OPPORTUNITY

Political extremists are introducing and passing harmful legislation to attack education and take away the right of parents and children to decide what’s best for students to read. It’s important now more than ever that we uplift age-appropriate books as essential pieces of a student’s public school education.

## ASK

1. Add your organization’s name to the Banned Books Week Open Letter in support of books and the freedom to read and learn (included below).
2. Send us your logo to add to the Banned Books Week Open Letter page.
3. Share the Banned Books Week Open Letter with your organization’s supporters, asking them to sign on to show appreciation for books and support for the freedom to read and learn.

## BANNED BOOKS OPEN LETTER

This past year was the toughest year yet for the freedom to read.

A record [4,240 titles were targeted for censorship](#) in 2023 by extremist special interest groups and others who are afraid of the truth, inclusivity, and challenges to established power that these books promote. People have a right to complain about specific books, but one person's complaint shouldn't dictate what every child is able to read and learn.

Defending diverse literature means defending those books that teach us, challenge us, entertain us, and introduce us to new ideas. But that's why we believe in keeping them available.

**We believe in the freedom to read.**

Books are a gift, and we will always support students' freedom to read and to learn from ones that have been banned.

**We believe in empowering educators, parents, and students.**

No one else has a child's best interests in mind more than their educators and parents. Teachers are trained to select and teach age-appropriate books and curricula—let's empower them to do their job in the classroom so we can do ours outside of it and give our kids the honest education they deserve.

**We believe in an inclusive public education.**

It's no coincidence that most of the books being banned today address issues of race, gender, and sexuality head-on. These books teach kids about age-appropriate topics that affirm their own identities and those of their peers, making them an essential part of a diverse and inclusive school community.

Banned books teach us the difficult lessons. They lead us to what's possible. They show us what it means to be better.

This Banned Books Week, parents are taking action. We're asking state policymakers to stand up in support of banned books and protect the freedom to read by rejecting legislation that takes away the right of students, parents, and educators to access age-appropriate books in schools and in libraries.

Best,

Readers across the country, young and old

## **[SIGNATORY LOGOS]**

### **SIGNATORIES**

[signatories placeholder]

### **SPREAD THE WORD ON BOOK BANS**

Sign the Banned Books Week Open Letter to Show Support for Banned Books and the Freedom to Read

[Button/link to action landing page: Use the toolkit to spread the word]