

Vote NO on Extreme MAGA Republicans’ “Politics over Parents” Bill (H.R. 5)
Parents Want Partnership – Not Censorship

Our classrooms are no place for culture wars. H.R. 5, the so-called “Parents Bill of Rights” is a political stunt that distracts from what our public schools really need: real parental engagement – not parental censorship.

Instead of scoring political points and scaring parents into thinking that schools do not have the best interests of children at heart, we should be talking about the support that families *actually* need. Children benefit from their parents and teachers working together.

The Problem

H.R. 5: (1) creates unnecessary and burdensome reporting requirements on schools; (2) diverts essential resources and personnel away from meeting families’ real needs; and (3) opens the door to dictate what students can and cannot read or learn.

This bill is one of many attempts by Republican politicians at the state level—some successful—to give a vocal minority the power to impose their beliefs on *all* parents and students. In fact, in the [past three academic years](#), legislators in 45 states proposed 283 laws that either sought to [ban books](#); censor curriculum; restrict students’ civil rights; and/or punish teachers for accurately recounting our nation’s history. Of those proposals, 64 bills have been signed into law across 25 states, covering over 40 percent of the American population.

Simply put, H.R. 5 and educational gag orders across the nation prevent students from learning and teachers from teaching. H.R. 5 does not take any meaningful steps to increase or support parental engagement. In fact, the Cato Institute—a conservative think tank—stated that H.R. 5, “suffers from a fundamental flaw: It is not constitutional. Even if unconstitutional, it would not give parents real power.”

Need more proof Republicans are not interested in increasing parental engagement and improving student success? Here is a sample of the 25+ amendments Committee Republicans voted against, during the 16-hour Committee mark up.

Amendment	Democrats	Republicans
To prevent schools from banning books	YES	NO
To help keep firearms out of classrooms	YES	NO
To provide educators with training and development	YES	NO
To remove lead pipes from schools	YES	NO
To increase funding for Statewide Family Engagement Centers	YES	NO
To affirm that students should have access to healthy meals	YES	NO
To affirm that students should have access to mental health professionals	YES	NO

To prevent schools from monitoring students' menstrual cycles	YES	NO
To create a designated parent coordinator at every school	YES	NO
To require in-person translators for parent teacher conferences where the parents' first language is not English	YES	NO
To recruit and train diverse teachers	YES	NO
To help schools voluntarily integrate K-12 public schools	YES	NO
To increase funding for full-service community schools	YES	NO
To prevent the censorship of Black History	YES	NO
To prevent the censorship of Latino history	YES	NO
To prevent the censorship of AAPI history	YES	NO
To prevent the censorship of Native history	YES	NO
To prevent the censorship of LGBTQ+ history	YES	NO
To prevent the censorship of women's history	YES	NO
To prevent the censorship of the teaching of the Holocaust	YES	NO
To prevent the bill from taking effect until a study to understand the consequences of the bill is completed	YES	NO

The Solution

Parental engagement is central to student success. Parental engagement in schools is closely linked to better student behavior, higher academic achievement, and enhanced social skills.

House Democrats are offering a substantive alternative that would: (1) create a designated parent coordinator at every public school; (2) increase funding for statewide family engagement centers; (3) increase funding for full-service community schools (4) prevent schools from banning books; and (5) prevent the censorship of Black history, Latino history, AAPI history, Native history, LGBTQ+ history, women's history, and the Holocaust.