

On Wed, Mar 9, 2022 at 1:23 PM Micheal Dwyer <micheal@ebonnerlibrary.org> wrote:

Hello fellow A/V people,

I'm sure many of you know this already, but [House Bill 666](#) has passed the Idaho House and will now be considered by the Idaho Senate. The wording in this bill makes it seem like we won't be able to exhibit materials that aren't considered safe for children. I'm reading this with a definition of exhibit that includes having materials on the shelf or in displays, but I would love to be wrong about that. It's probably a little early to think about how this will impact collections, but I'm genuinely curious what liability-reducing management strategies the rest of you may be considering at this stage.

From: libidaho@simplelists.com [mailto:libidaho@simplelists.com] On Behalf Of Rebecca Hardin

Sent: Wednesday, March 9, 2022 2:18 PM

To: Micheal Dwyer

Cc: libidaho@simplelists.com

Subject: Re: [Audio/Video] Collection Management and House Bill 666

In light of the recent adoption of the ninth principle of ALA's Code of Ethics, I don't see how librarians can in good conscience censor their collections by eliminating PG-13 movies or restricting minors to check out unless parents are present. The rally should be to resist the unethical law rather than adjust to its demands. I understand Idaho law is a higher law than ALA, but we do have a code of ethics which rests on the foundations of democracy. Succumbing to an undemocratic, unethical law shouldn't be an option.

Most respectfully,

On Wed, Mar 9, 2022 at 2:27 PM Meagan Mize <meagan@westbonnerlibrary.org> wrote:

I agree. I will not censor. I will fight this to the end.

I just read an article that they believe this bill will not make it the Senate floor for debate but will die in a drawer somewhere. I just hope that is the case.

Best Regards,

Meagan Mize
West Bonner Library District
[118 Main Street](#)
[Priest River, Idaho 83856](#)
208-448-2207

From: libidaho@simplelists.com <libidaho@simplelists.com> On Behalf Of Emily Hitchcock

Sent: Wednesday, March 9, 2022 2:48 PM

To: meagan@westbonnerlibrary.org

Cc: Rebecca Hardin <rhardin@cityoflewiston.org>; Micheal Dwyer <micheal@ebonnerlibrary.org>; libidaho <libidaho@simplelists.com>

Subject: Re: [Audio/Video] Collection Management and House Bill 666

I've written letters, I've keep my coworkers up to date on it so they can write/call, and I've tried to ask friends who live in Idaho to write against this. I agree, we don't want this bill to pass.

However, if it does pass, we will have to live with the repercussions until it can be removed. I feel like checkouts and programming will be ok if we require the parent to be with the child. We could post what materials will be used in the programing beforehand,



but again... it's just. Ugh. UGH.

On Wed, Mar 9, 2022 at 3:32 PM Tamra Hawley-House <thawleyhouse@gmail.com> wrote:

Hi all,

As we continue reaching out to Idaho Senators about this bill and standing firm in our beliefs that libraries (and all of their materials and services) are central to democracy, take a few minutes to read a great response from an Idaho School Librarian:

<https://www.idahoednews.org/voices/from-a-librarian-no-standard-could-ever-match-all-tastes-and-preferences/>

Standing in solidarity from retirement.

Tammy Hawley-House

On Wed, Mar 9, 2022 at 4:04 PM Perry Stokes <director@bakerlib.org> wrote:

Dear Idaho library colleagues,

So sorry you have to suffer additional anxieties caused by HB666. But please don't worry much at this point. The bill is really just a performative pot shot for attention seekers and votes. If it does pass, it will inevitably reach the court arena where it's likely to found un-Constitutional.

Until that plays out, don't self-censor or give in to intimidation. Full speed ahead with your courageous collection development and programming.

Let your communities know they can proudly stand with the library community as citizens for liberty who refuse to let the First Amendment be torched by puritanical mobs.

Perry Stokes
Co-Chair, Oregon Library Assoc - Intellectual Freedom Committee
Director, Baker County Library District
director@bakerlib.org
(541) 523-6419

On Thu, Mar 10, 2022 at 5:07 PM A tool for Idaho library workers to communicate and collaborate with each other. <nobody@simplelists.com> wrote:

(Previous discussion continued)

[Re: \[Audio/Video\] Collection Management and House Bill 666](#) - Kiersten Kerr (10 Mar 2022 08:13 MST)

[Re: \[Audio/Video\] Collection Management and House Bill 666](#) - Filer Library (09 Mar 2022 21:07 MST)

[Re: \[Audio/Video\] Collection Management and House Bill 666](#) - Micheal Dwyer (10 Mar 2022 09:16 MST)

[RE: \[Audio/Video\] Collection Management and House Bill 666](#) - Marjolein Lolkema (10 Mar 2022 09:27 MST)

[Re: \[Audio/Video\] Collection Management and House Bill 666](#) by [Kiersten Kerr](#) (10 Mar 2022 08:13 MST)

[Reply to list](#)

Well said, Mr. Gregory Taylor! Great job, and thanks for sharing this Tammy. Have a great day library friends.

Kiersten Kerr, MIS
Teacher Librarian
Coeur d'Alene High School

From: **Kimber Glidden** <kimber@boundarycountylibrary.org>
Date: Wed, Mar 16, 2022 at 12:47 PM
Subject: Re: Daily digest for libidaho@simplelists.com
To: <libidaho@simplelists.com>

Good morning Idaho Libraries! This is my first time reaching out via Listserv, so please excuse any potential formatting issues.

We have been receiving challenges to materials we don't even have in our collection with community members stating HB666. While I do hold out hope that cooler heads may prevail, I do not believe that the intensifying censorship attempts will go away. Several other House and Senate bills are concerning and reflect an increasingly radical ideology. I have recently written a couple of different articles addressing this issue, one is soon to be published in the Progress Edition of the Bonners Ferry Herald or can be found, along with my "From the Stacks" editorials, on the Boundary County Library website.

With that premise set, my staff and I are preparing our collection to make a strong statement of what censorship really looks like. With help from volunteers, we will be "blackening" out the spines of all the challenged and/or banned books our library owns. To further drive the point home, those items will not be available for checkout. Our roll out for the project is May 2, 2022. We will be inviting local news organizations and political representatives to an open house style reception on the opening day of the display. I would like to ask that as many of you as possible join us in our endeavor. There is strength in numbers. Please reach out if you would like to discuss our effort further.

Kimber Glidden, Director

she/her/hers

Boundary County Library

6370 Kootenai St., Bonners Ferry, ID 83805

208.267.3750

Meagan Mize

From: Meagan Mize <meagan@westbonnerlibrary.org>
Sent: Wednesday, March 9, 2022 2:26 PM
To: 'Rebecca Hardin'; 'Micheal Dwyer'
Cc: 'libidaho@simplelists.com'
Subject: RE: [Audio/Video] Collection Management and House Bill 666

I agree. I will not censor. I will fight this to the end.

I just read an article that they believe this bill will not make it the Senate floor for debate but will die in a drawer somewhere. I just hope that is the case.

Best Regards,
Meagan Mize

West Bonner Library District
118 Main Street
Priest River, Idaho 83856
208-448-2207



Vanessa Velez <vanessa@ebonnerlibrary.org>

Fwd: HB 666

1 message

Vanessa Velez <vanessa@ebonnerlibrary.org>

Fri, Mar 11, 2022 at 4:01 PM

To: Board of Trustees <boardoftrustees@ebonnerlibrary.org>

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Senator Carrie Semmelroth** <CSemmelroth@senate.idaho.gov>

Date: Fri, Mar 11, 2022 at 3:42 PM

Subject: RE: HB 666

To: Vanessa Velez <vanessa@ebonnerlibrary.org>

Dear Vanessa,

Thank you for your email.

HB 666 is, in short, a bad bill — one that presents serious consequences for Idaho's schools, colleges, universities, museums, and libraries, and one that hijacks the First Amendment's obscenity exemption with the express purpose of stifling earnest health education.

The bill was proposed to target materials used to teach sex education and LGBT acceptance, and to do it in the most authoritarian way possible: through the criminal punishment of ideas. The bill poses criminal penalties, including prison time, for librarians and educators who fall on the wrong side of its hazy line, and it specifically cuts out their protections for doing their jobs in good faith.

This bill was conceived to appeal to a moral panic and use the threat of government violence to fight against necessary and valuable programs which include puberty health information to affirm students' bodily and personal self-acceptance, and sex-education programs that are our single most effective tool in preventing unwanted teen pregnancies or abortions.

Defenders of HB 666 say that it leaves parents with the discretion to control what kinds of subjects their children are exposed to, but they already have a channel to voice their local interests through their elected library and school boards or communication with their libraries and schools themselves. What this bill really seeks to do is strip parents of local resources to teach their children about personal subjects, by threatening to imprison librarians who would dare to put informative material on sexual health onto their shelves.

Intellectual freedom is critical for a healthy democracy, and I support the American Library Association's position that we should be able to see, read, or hear all sides of an issue. Libraries have a special responsibility to uphold the First Amendment, and I know the dedicated staff of Idaho's libraries take this responsibility seriously.

Sincerely,

Carrie Semmelroth

Senator District 17

csemmelroth@senate.idaho.gov

(208) 332-1352 (office)

(208) 841-8044 (cell)

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<https://www.carrieforidaho.com/subscribe>

Committees:

Agricultural Affairs

Local Government & Taxation

Resources & Environment

From: Vanessa Velez <vanessa@ebonnerlibrary.org>

Sent: Tuesday, March 08, 2022 10:52 AM

To: Senator Jeff Agenbroad <JAgenbroad@senate.idaho.gov>; Senator Kelly Anthon <KAnthon@senate.idaho.gov>; Senator Steve Bair <sbair@senate.idaho.gov>; Senator Julie VanOrden <JVanOrden@senate.idaho.gov>; Senator Regina Bayer <RBayer@senate.idaho.gov>; Senator Grant Burgoyne <gburgoyne@senate.idaho.gov>; Senator Van Burtenshaw <VBurtenshaw@senate.idaho.gov>; Senator Kevin Cook <KCook@senate.idaho.gov>; Senator Carl Crabtree <CCrabtree@senate.idaho.gov>; Senator Lori Den Hartog <LDenHartog@senate.idaho.gov>; Senator Scott Grow <SGrow@senate.idaho.gov>; Senator Jim Guthrie <JGuthrie@senate.idaho.gov>; Senator Mark Harris <MHarris@senate.idaho.gov>; Senator Lee Heider <LHeider@senate.idaho.gov>; Senator Dan Johnson <djohnson@senate.idaho.gov>; Senator Robert Blair <RBlair@senate.idaho.gov>; Senator Todd Lakey <TLakey@senate.idaho.gov>; Senator Abby Lee <ALee@senate.idaho.gov>; Senator Patti Anne Lodge <palodge@senate.idaho.gov>; Senator Fred S. Martin <FMartin@senate.idaho.gov>; Senator Mark Nye <mnye@senate.idaho.gov>; Senator David Nelson <DNelson@senate.idaho.gov>; Senator Jim Patrick <jpatrick@senate.idaho.gov>; Senator Jim Rice <jrice@senate.idaho.gov>; Senator Doug Ricks <dricks@senate.idaho.gov>; Senator Peter Riggs <Riggs@senate.idaho.gov>; Senator Carrie Semmelroth <CSemmelroth@senate.idaho.gov>; Senator Mary Souza <MSouza@senate.idaho.gov>; Senator Michelle Stennett <MStennett@senate.idaho.gov>; Senator Steven Thayne <sthayne@senate.idaho.gov>; Senator Steve Vick <svick@senate.idaho.gov>; Senator Janie Ward-Engelking <JWardEngelking@senate.idaho.gov>; Senator Chuck Winder <cwinder@senate.idaho.gov>; Senator Melissa Wintrow <mwintrow@senate.idaho.gov>; Senator Jim Woodward <JWoodward@senate.idaho.gov>; Senator Christy Zito <CZito@senate.idaho.gov>

Subject: HB 666

Dear Senators,

I am writing in regards to HB666. I am writing as the Interim Director on behalf of the East Bonner County Library District. I strongly urge you not to support this bill, which **smacks of government overreach**.

As written, this vague bill does not define "harmful to minors" nor does it specify who exactly would be "on the hook" to be charged. Who gets to decide what is harmful? Anyone? How can they decide that something so subjective be universally applied to all minors in every family in the state of Idaho? Who would be determined to be responsible: The librarian who bought the book? The staff person who cataloged it in the computer software? The entry-level Library Page or volunteer who put it on the shelf? Who would be responsible if a minor puts a book on hold by themselves and no one actually

"disseminated it?" Would the library as an organization be held criminally liable? In libraries and museums, many hands are involved in the process of managing collections.

This bill has the potential to cause frivolous lawsuits, **wasting taxpayer dollars** and potentially bankrupting low-paid workers just trying to do their jobs.

We work with families all day, every day, helping them find the right materials to suit their individual family interests and values at our library. All Idaho communities contain families of widely varying experiences and perspectives. **We in the public library do not believe it appropriate to meddle in the individual affairs of any family.** And I fear living and working in a place where anyone anytime can claim criminal acts to government employees just trying to help people.

I urge you to vote no on this reprehensible bill.

Sincerely,

Vanessa Velez

--
Vanessa Velez (she/her)

(208) 263-6930 ext. 1282

Interim Director

Collection Development

Technical Services

[Redacted Signature]

--
Vanessa Velez (she/her)

(208) 263-6930 ext. 1282

Interim Director

Collection Development

Technical Services





Vanessa Velez <vanessa@ebonnerlibrary.org>

Re: HB666

1 message

Vanessa Velez <vanessa@ebonnerlibrary.org>

To: Zach Hagadone <zach@sandpointreader.com>

Wed, Mar 9, 2022 at 10:11 AM

Hi Zach!

I'll forward you the letter I sent the Senators and the response I got from one (the only one I've received so far). My letter was edited from a suggested letter drafted by ILA (Idaho Library Association). For a more staff-oriented perspective, please feel free to reach out to our AV Collection Development manager, Micheal Dwyer: micheal@ebonnerlibrary.org. He has some thoughts :)

Dear Senators,

I am writing in regards to HB666. I am writing as the Interim Director on behalf of the East Bonner County Library District. I strongly urge you not to support this bill, which **smacks of government overreach**.

As written, this vague bill does not define "harmful to minors" nor does it specify who exactly would be "on the hook" to be charged. Who gets to decide what is harmful? Anyone? How can they decide that something so subjective be universally applied to all minors in every family in the state of Idaho? Who would be determined to be responsible: The librarian who bought the book? The staff person who cataloged it in the computer software? The entry-level Library Page or volunteer who put it on the shelf? Who would be responsible if a minor puts a book on hold by themselves and no one actually "disseminated it?" Would the library as an organization be held criminally liable? In libraries and museums, many hands are involved in the process of managing collections.

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I urge you to vote no on this reprehensible bill.

Sincerely,

Vanessa Velez

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Senator Melissa Wintrow** <mwintrow@senate.idaho.gov>

Date: Tue, Mar 8, 2022 at 3:56 PM

Subject: RE: HB 666

To: Vanessa Velez <vanessa@ebonnerlibrary.org>

Thank you for reaching out about this bill. I hope that this bill will not be heard in the Senate because this bill is a violation of the first amendment. It is incredibly harmful, not just to the public servants it is criminalizing, but also to the children of the state. It feels like lately, the majority party in the legislature wants to put everyone behind bars, including health care professionals, librarians, and women seeking medical care. There is a reason why the current statute protects schools, public libraries, universities, and museums.

These institutions and their workers are essential cornerstones of our society that greatly benefit the education of our youth. This is governmental overreach, a violation of 1st amendment rights, and one more step towards a "police" state in Idaho. If one truly values liberty and freedom of speech, they would be strongly opposed to this bill.

The law being presented is too vague. It does not define what "harmful material" entails. This is going to cause a chilling effect amongst librarians. They will have to live in fear of facing criminal penalties for what they recommend and loan. Children should be able to learn about difficult topics, it is detrimental to shelter them. Additionally, there are already procedures in place to determine what should be distributed by public libraries and what is age appropriate. This is only an attempt to further censor the education of history and social topics. It is important to note many of the material cited in testimony in support of this bill were LGBTQ+ books. We cannot censor materials based on the requests of the least tolerant sectors of our community.

Respectfully,

Senator Melissa Wintrow

District 19

On Wed, Mar 9, 2022 at 9:37 AM Zach Hagadone <zach@sandpointreader.com> wrote:

Hello Vanessa,

I'm reaching out to see if you'd be willing to provide me with your thoughts on House Bill 666, currently working its way through the Idaho Legislature. I'm preparing a story for tomorrow's paper on the contents of the bill (and it's potential ramifications, which are looking pretty dire), but felt it would be especially important for readers to hear what the leaders of our local library have to say.

I've already received some comments from Amy Flint, though her comments are her own and do not necessarily reflect the Library Board as a whole.

Hope all is well!

Best,

Zach

--

Zach Hagadone
Editor-in-Chief
Sandpoint Reader
Office: 208-946-4368
Cell: 509-336-5243
zach@sandpointreader.com

The contents of this email are solely intended for the addressee(s) and may contain confidential and/or privileged information that may not be disclosed unless otherwise agreed to by the sender and addressee(s).

--

Vanessa Velez (she/her)
(208) 263-6930 ext. 1282
Interim Director
Collection Development
Technical Services



Valerie Lloyd <director@madisonlib.org>

LEGISLATIVE ALERT!

12 messages

Idaho Library Association <admin@idaholibraries.org>

Wed, Mar 2, 2022 at 8:00 PM

Reply-To: Mary DeWalt <mdewalt@adalib.org>

To: Valerie Lloyd <director@madisonlib.org>

Dear Idaho Libraries,

HB666 is being introduced in the House State Affairs Committee tomorrow, Thursday, March 3, 2022 at 9am. This bill removes the current legal exemption/protection in place protecting teachers, librarians, and museums from private legal action. If passed, this bill puts all of us at risk for being charged with a criminal act for "disseminating harmful materials to minors." Of course, **this bill does not define "harmful material"** which leaves us at risk of being charged with up to a year in jail or a \$1,000 fine.

We need Idaho library workers, teachers, and others to take 5 minutes to contact the State Affairs Committee by 9am tomorrow morning! If **one of the committee members is your representative**, please contact them directly!

Here are some sample letters you can use as a springboard.

Official Letter from Library Director,

Dear House State Affairs Committee,

I am writing in regards to HB666 being considered Thursday morning in committee. I am writing on behalf of the [_____] Library as the Library Director. I urge you not to support this bill.

As written, **this bill does not define "harmful to minors" nor does it specify who exactly would be "on the hook" to be charged.** Who gets to decide what is harmful? Anyone? How can they decide what is harmful that can be universally applied to all minors in every family in the state of Idaho? Who would be determined to be responsible, the librarian who bought the book?

would be determined to be responsible, the librarian who bought the book? The librarian who cataloged it in the computer software? The Library Page making \$7/hour who put it on the shelf? Who would be responsible if a minor put a book on hold by themselves and no one actually "disseminated it" would the library as an organization be held criminally liable? In libraries and museums, many hands are involved in the process of managing collections.

This bill has the potential to cause frivolous lawsuits, wasting taxpayer dollars. Or worse yet, bankrupting low-paid government workers just trying to do their jobs.

We work with families all day every day, helping them to find the right materials to suit their individual family interests and values at our library. I assure you, even right here in the community of [] there are families of widely varying experiences and perspectives. We in the public library, a government entity, do not believe it appropriate to meddle in the individual affairs of any family. And I fear living and working in a place where anyone anytime can claim criminal acts to government employees just trying to help kids be good readers.

I urge you to vote no on this bill.

Board Letter:

Dear House State Affairs Committee,

As a board member in a public library, we already have sound policies that govern the selection, evaluation, and removal of materials in library collections. As well as clear expectations that parents are responsible for their own children's use of the library. I am writing to urge you to vote no on HB666. This bill, as written, puts our library workers in jeopardy of being the subjects of frivolous lawsuits. This exemption is vital to ensure library employees are able to follow locally determined policies and perform the duties of their positions without risk of private legal action based on subjective interpretation of what is "harmful."

Thank you,

Trustee X

Letter from Library Worker:

Dear Committee Members,

As an employee in a public library in Idaho, I urge you to vote no on HB666.

This bill is flawed and without specific definitions of "harmful to minors" this would put me at risk of anyone deciding anything is "harmful" and sending me through expensive legal processes just for doing my job. I work with children and families of all kinds of backgrounds and perspectives in the library and am confident that parents know they are ultimately responsible for what their kids borrow from a public library. It is not the library's job to determine what is or is not appropriate for all the different families we serve. Please vote no on this bill and let families decide what is best for themselves.

Thank you,

X

Information

To contact the entire State Affairs Committee via email, send letters

State Affairs

Statewide issues: elections, abortion, electric utility deregulation

Daily, 9:00 am, Room EW40

Secretary: Haley Villa

Email: hstaf@house.idaho.gov

Phone: [332-1145](tel:332-1145)

To testify in person or virtually, register here

https://legislature.idaho.gov/events/220303_hsta_0900am-h-666/