

Public Comments Received After 4/13/22

Hi Ms. Lighthiser

Please do all you can to strengthen our precious library.

I find it almost silly to be writing this email, but such are the bizarre times in which we live.

To be brief, I found this somewhere recently:

"You have the right to say stupid, hateful, offensive, bigoted, anti-American things.

I have the right to call you out, shame you, & protest what you say.

But we all need to grow up & stop reflexively trying to SHUT DOWN speech that offends us."

Libraries are guardians of the First Amendment. I treasure ours and have started to donate monthly.

Thanks for your efforts!

Noel Drury, MD
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Dear Commissioners:

Over the last weekend I read the book entitled, *Gender Queer*, which some "conservatives" seek to banish from our public library, causing much controversy. I urge you to take an hour or two to examine this book.

It was written by a homosexual woman probably in her thirties and describes her confusion and loneliness as she grew up gay in our society—confusion about how she fitted in with others, if at all, and revulsion against changes in her body in puberty and teenage. While the book deals with her consciousness of sex, only one page or so out of 200 or more deals explicitly with intercourse. From allegations of the book's critics, I had supposed that many of its pages deal with this. The book is by no means obsessed mainly with sex. (I think, by the way, that many if not most young people,, gay or straight, experience confusion and discomfort in dealing with teen age and with sex and would benefit from reading this book.)

I myself have a "transgender" granddaughter turned grandson who has experienced growing up under much the same conditions as the writer of *GenderQueer*. I have witnessed with apprehension as she/he has undergone surgeries and other treatments to become a nearly six-foot-tall and burly 21-year-old trans man who is much happier than the suppressed and sometimes suicidal youngster she was

before the age of 15. I firmly believe that it is wise to facilitate familiarity with and discussion of these issues.

William Cox
501 4th Avenue East, Kalispell

I hope that you do not give the library board a variance for the unqualified librarian they have chosen. We were one of the best libraries in MT before this board was appointed.

Thank you for your consideration.

Rob Carr

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Hello,

I am a community member, responding a little late to the topic of library funding. I wholeheartedly support a library with appropriate staff/education. Our library board is determined to dismantle the library system and has actually stated goals to the effect of making it a volunteer library, of having a book list that is in agreement with the christian homeschool approved books, and Doug Adams has actually said that all librarians should do is check books in and out. He doesn't even know that library patrons do self check-out....I wonder if he has even checked out a book!

I hope that you will hold this library board accountable for their actions, and realize that as a community, to fight them, it helps that we lost funding. \$35,000 is a number no one turns their head up to. We need you to stand strong in your requirements so that our library doesn't fall through the cracks with these buffoons.

Thank you!
Mary Dixon
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