Date

School or Library Name

Street Address

City, State Zip

Re: Book Challenges

Dear Board Members/Name,

Introduce yourself and your bookstore. We are writing in regard to the District’s/Library’s response to the challenge(s) to *Book Name(s)*.

Our store has a strong commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion that we demonstrate in a variety of ways, including ensuring representation in our inventory and equity in our business practices. We believe that schools and libraries should also reflect these ideals.

The freedom to read stories about people of diverse sexual and gender identities validates and empowers all youth, especially those who identify as LGBTQIA2S+. When children see gender expression journeys in literature, this allows them to fully realize their own personal journeys. In contrast, when LGBTQIA2S+ children do not see themselves represented in the stories around them, they can internalize negative messages about the value of their personal stories. LGBTQIA2S+ students are 140 times more likely than non-LGBTQIA2S+ students to miss school due to safety concerns, and 1 out of 3 LGBTQIA2S+ youth attempt suicide or have suicidal thoughts. However, youth in schools with pro-LGBTQIA2S+ policies report fewer thoughts of suicide. Additionally, LGBTQIA2S+ representation in books promotes value and acceptance of all human differences.

Elaborate on the books in questions (any awards the books have won, important information about the author).

We ask that the District/Library protect LGBTQIA2S+ books to help all children enhance their empathy, broaden their perspectives, and see themselves in the stories of others.

Thank you for your attention to this important issue.

Sincerely,

Your Name