



August 20, 2023

Governor Gavin Newsom
1021 O Street, Suite 9000
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Book Bans in California

Dear Gov. Newsom,

Thank you for your continued efforts in resisting book bans in California schools and libraries, including securing books for students in Temecula and endorsing AB-1078.

Your rejection of book bans has the support of an overwhelming majority of parents across the political spectrum, as evidenced from surveys conducted by PEN, Hart Research Associates, North Star Opinion Research, and others.

The concept of banning books contradicts the very essence of freedom and what it means to be an American. We must protect our First Amendment Rights now and for future generations.

Despite this, book bans are being enacted in communities nationwide, with PEN America reporting "1,477 instances of individual books banned, affecting 874 unique titles" in the first half of the 2022-23 school year.

Per your letter to California County and District Superintendents and Charter School Administrators, dated June 1, 2023: "Access to books — including books that reflect the diverse experiences and perspectives of Californians, and especially those that may challenge us to grapple with uncomfortable truths— is a profound freedom we all must protect and cultivate."

We couldn't agree more. Thank you for your support.

Thank you,

(Print Name & Address) _____
