

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 8235

To require certain libraries to maintain a diverse collection of books, and
for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 9, 2026

Ms. PRESSLEY (for herself, Mr. CARSON, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. EVANS of Pennsylvania, Mr. FROST, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Ms. NORTON, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mrs. RAMIREZ, Ms. RANDALL, Ms. SIMON, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Ms. TLAIB, Ms. UNDERWOOD, and Ms. VELÁZQUEZ) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and Workforce, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To require certain libraries to maintain a diverse collection
of books, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Books Save Lives
5 Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. ACCESS TO LIBRARIES AND DIVERSE BOOKS.**

2 (a) ACCESS TO SCHOOL LIBRARIES.—A covered
3 school shall maintain a library that is staffed by a trained
4 librarian.

5 (b) LIBRARY BOOK SELECTION.—Each public library
6 receiving Federal financial assistance and each library of
7 a covered school shall maintain a diverse collection of
8 books, including—

9 (1) books written or illustrated by an individual
10 who is a member of an underrepresented community;
11 and

12 (2) books about an underrepresented commu-
13 nity.

14 (c) CIVIL RIGHTS ENFORCEMENT.—Proof that the
15 exclusion of books from a covered school or library receiv-
16 ing Federal financial assistance has had a disparate im-
17 pact on covered books shall constitute prima facie evidence
18 of discrimination against a protected class in violation of
19 the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. 2000d et seq.),
20 the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C.
21 12101 et seq.), the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C.
22 701 et seq.), or the Education Amendments of 1972 (20
23 U.S.C. 1651 et seq.), as appropriate.

24 **SEC. 3. REPORT ON BOOK BAN CAMPAIGNS.**

25 Not later than 180 days after the date of the enact-
26 ment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United

1 States shall begin the creation of a report on the effect
2 that recent campaigns to ban books in public libraries and
3 public schools have had on underrepresented communities.

4 **SEC. 4. DEFINITIONS.**

5 In this Act:

6 (1) COVERED BOOK.—The term “covered book”
7 means a book or an item of educational media writ-
8 ten by, illustrated by, or about an individual who is
9 a member of an underrepresented community.

10 (2) COVERED SCHOOL.—The term “covered
11 school” means an elementary school or secondary
12 school that is controlled or directed by a local edu-
13 cational agency receiving Federal financial assist-
14 ance.

15 (3) ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, LOCAL EDU-
16 CATIONAL AGENCY, AND SECONDARY SCHOOL.—The
17 terms “elementary school”, “local educational agen-
18 cy”, and “secondary school” have the meaning given
19 the terms in section 8101 of the Elementary and
20 Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801).

21 (4) UNDERREPRESENTED COMMUNITY.—The
22 term “underrepresented community” means a group
23 of individuals that share a common identity or char-
24 acteristic, in cases in which discrimination based on
25 such characteristic is prohibited by the Civil Rights

1 Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. 2000d et seq.), the Ameri-
2 cans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12101
3 et seq.), the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C.
4 701 et seq.), or the Education Amendments of 1972
5 (20 U.S.C. 1651 et seq.), including a group of indi-
6 viduals who—

7 (A) are members of a racial or ethnic mi-
8 nority group;

9 (B) are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender,
10 queer, intersex, or nonbinary;

11 (C) are members of a religious minority
12 group; or

13 (D) have a disability.

○