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(Original Signature of Member)

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. _____

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

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Ms. PRESSLEY introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on _____

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”.

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

7 (a) ACCESS TO SCHOOL LIBRARIES.—A covered
8 school shall maintain a library that is staffed by a trained
9 librarian.

1 (b) LIBRARY BOOK SELECTION.—Each public library
2 receiving Federal financial assistance and each library of
3 a covered school shall maintain a diverse collection of
4 books, including—

5 (1) books written or illustrated by an individual
6 who is a member of an underrepresented community;
7 and

8 (2) books about an underrepresented commu-
9 nity.

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

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

21 Not later than 180 days after the date of the enact-
22 ment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United
23 States shall begin the creation of a report on the effect
24 that recent campaigns to ban books in public libraries and
25 public schools have had on underrepresented communities.

1 **SEC. 4. DEFINITIONS.**

2 In this Act:

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

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

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

18 (4) UNDERREPRESENTED COMMUNITY.—The
19 term “underrepresented community” means a group
20 of individuals that share a common identity or char-
21 acteristic, in cases in which discrimination based on
22 such characteristic is prohibited by the Civil Rights
23 Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. 2000d et seq.), the Ameri-
24 cans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12101
25 et seq.), the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C.
26 701 et seq.), or the Education Amendments of 1972

1 (20 U.S.C. 1651 et seq.), including a group of indi-
2 viduals who—

3 (A) are members of a racial or ethnic mi-
4 nority group;

5 (B) are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender,
6 queer, intersex, or nonbinary;

7 (C) are members of a religious minority
8 group; or

9 (D) have a disability.