

TO: Representative Cordelli and members of the House Education Policy and Administration Committee

FROM: MacKenzie Nicholson, NH Senior Director, MomsRising

DATE: April 23, 2025



Thank you, Chair Cordelli and members of the House Education Policy and Administration Committee, for the opportunity to submit testimony in opposition to SB 33. My name is MacKenzie Nicholson, and I am the New Hampshire Senior Director of MomsRising, an on-the-ground and online grassroots organization representing thousands of moms and their families across the Granite State.

SB 33 is unnecessary, confusing, and harmful. It mandates that school districts create new policies to regulate educational materials and process complaints, even though most districts already have clear procedures in place to address parental concerns and offer alternatives when needed. That's a reasonable and appropriate process—one that supports family engagement without undermining professional educators or local control. Instead, this bill risks opening the floodgates to politically motivated challenges and unnecessary bureaucracy in schools.

Parents in New Hampshire aren't asking for this bill—and it goes too far. A March 2025 Granite State Poll conducted by the University of New Hampshire Survey Center found that 56% of voters believe decisions about books and materials should be made locally. Just 33% think the state should set blanket policies from Concord. Moms across the state want to work directly with their schools—not be caught in top-down processes that create confusion and distrust.¹

We've seen what happens when bills like this pass in other states: broad and vague terms lead to the removal of books that reflect diverse perspectives—books about race, gender, identity, history, and lived experience. That's not protection. That's censorship.

We also know that this kind of vague, subjective policy creates logistical chaos. Educators are already under pressure, and adding loosely defined mandates and public records requirements—like those included in SB 33—only makes it harder for schools to stay focused on learning. This bill will stretch resources thin, increase community conflict, and discourage open discussion in classrooms.

¹ EveryLibrary. (2025, April 9). New Hampshire Voters Reject HB324: A Call for Local Control, Not Criminalization. https://www.everylibrary.org/nh_voters_reject_hb324_poll

MomsRising members support transparency, parental involvement, and safe, inclusive schools. But SB 33 doesn't support those goals. It creates confusion, invites misuse, and undermines trust in educators and local school leaders.

We urge the committee to reject SB 33 and return to this issue only with a more thoughtful, collaborative approach that centers families, educators, and local values.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "MacKenzie Nicholson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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