

Massachusetts



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RESOLUTION ON BOOK BANS

Whereas, A book ban is restricting or prohibiting the reading of certain books by the general public, government officials, religious groups or organizations. Books are removed from bookstores, libraries, and schools because of objections to the content; the most widespread form of censorship; and

Whereas, With the surge in the number of challenges to books in bookstores, libraries and schools throughout the United States a response was the creation of Banned Book Week, October 1 -7; which spotlights historical and present attempts to censor books and celebrates the freedom to read; and

Whereas, The First Amendment of the Constitution protects freedom of speech and the freedom to read and write; and

Whereas, American voters and parents oppose book bans and support librarians creating collections that include widespread offerings with varied viewpoints; and parental rights to support and guide their children in choosing appropriate reading and educational materials, be it

Resolved, That MA PTA and its local units are encouraged to advocate for laws, regulations, policies and programs that protect against book bans and protect free access to information and freedom of choice for parents to determine what their child reads; and be it further

Resolved, That MA PTA and its local units will work with educators, families and students to provide awareness and education on censorship, supporting factually correct and historically accurate information and materials; and be it further

Resolved, That MA PTA and its local units strongly urge freedom of expression with opportunities and materials fully accessible to all students, families, and educators allowing the realization of our full potential.

February 2024