



Legislative
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Washington, D.C. – Pursuit of County Advocacy Position on Federal Legislation Related to Libraries

This report contains a pursuit of County advocacy position on the following federal legislation:

[Stop the Sexualization of Children Act](#)

Background

- [H.R. 7661 \(M. Miller\)](#), as introduced on February 24, 2026, would amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to prohibit the use of funds provided under the Act to develop, implement, facilitate, host, or promote any program or activity for, or to provide or promote literature or other materials to, children under the age of 18 that includes sexually oriented material.
- H.R. 7661 would define "sexually oriented material" as any depiction, description, or simulation of sexually explicit conduct, or that involves gender dysphoria or transgenderism.
- The bill would exempt from this prohibition the teaching of standard science coursework, the texts of major world religions, or classic works of literature and art, as defined.

County Impact

- H.R. 7661 would open the door to government censorship and undermine intellectual freedom by tying federal funding to restrictions on certain materials, particularly those labeled "sexually explicit."
- LA County Library (Library) reports that this bill would create pressure for public library systems to censor or remove materials in order to avoid future financial penalties, and could force libraries to choose between maintaining diverse, inclusive collections or securing essential funding.
- The Library indicates that H.R. 7661 would risk undermining the crucial role of public library systems by pressuring libraries to limit access to constitutionally protected materials.

Support and Opposition

- H.R. 7661 has 22 Republican co-sponsors.
- H.R. 7661 is opposed by: the American Library Association; Public Library Association; GLAAD; National Education Association; Independent Book Publishers Association; Penguin Random House; PEN America; and Author's Guild; among other organizations.

Status

- H.R. 7661 passed the House Education and Workforce Committee on March 17, 2026, on a vote of 18-13 and is pending consideration by the full House of Representatives.

Recommendation

- This Office and the Library recommend opposing H.R. 7661 to affirm the County's commitment to intellectual freedom and to ensure that the Library can continue serving the public without compromising core values regarding the right to information.
- Therefore, unless otherwise directed by the Board, as this legislation is contrary to existing policy to address and combat discrimination based on sexual orientation, or other protected characteristics, **the Washington, D.C. Advocates will oppose H.R. 7661 and similar measures.**



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