



End discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity

Statement of Thomas Witt
In Opposition to SB 56
House Committee on the Judiciary
February 2, 2016

Good afternoon Mr. Chairman and members of the committee. I am here today to speak in opposition to SB 56, and I thank you for the opportunity to do so.

I am Thomas Witt, Executive Director of Equality Kansas, which works to eliminate discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity. However, today I am not speaking on behalf of Equality Kansas. In fact, I am speaking only for myself and my family.

My husband is a public school teacher who is certified to teach English, French, and German to middle school and high school students. I have attached to my testimony today a list of 153 books that have been either banned or proposed for ban by activists across the United States. Many of the books on the list before you have been required reading material in courses he has taught. In some cases, he has selected the materials. In others, he has been required to use them in his curriculum. In all cases, the books he has used have been approved by school district and building administration.

I have one question for this committee.

Whether he's required to use these titles by his employer, or makes his own selections from approved curricula, which books on this list will send him to jail?

That's all we want to know. How does he do his job without risk of incarceration?

Thank you for your time and attention.

Title	Author
A Day No Pigs Would Die	Robert Newton Peck
A Light in the Attic	Shel Silverstein
A Prayer for Owen Meany	John Irving
A Time to Kill	John Grisham
A Wrinkle in Time	Madeleine L'Engle
Alice (series)	Phyllis Reynolds Naylor
Always Running	Luis Rodriguez
America: A Novel	E.R. Frank
American Psycho	Bret Easton Ellis
Anastasia Krupnik (series)	Lois Lowry

Title	Author
And Tango Makes Three	Justin Richardson/Peter Parnell
Angus, Thongs, and Full Frontal Snogging	Louise Rennison
Annie on My Mind	Nancy Garden
Are You There, God? It's Me, Margaret	Judy Blume
Arizona Kid	Ron Koertge
Arming America	Michael Bellasiles
Asking About Sex and Growing Up	Joanna Cole
Athletic Shorts	Chris Crutcher
Beloved	Toni Morrison
Black Boy	Richard Wright
Bless Me, Ultima	Rudolfo Anaya
Blood and Chocolate	Annette Curtis Klause
Blubber	Judy Blume
Boys and Sex	Wardell Pomeroy
Brave New World	Aldous Huxley
Bridge to Terabithia	Katherine Paterson
Bumps in the Night	Harry Allard
Captain Underpants (series)	Dav Pilkey
Carrie	Stephen King
Catcher in the Rye	J.D. Salinger
Christine	Stephen King
Crazy Lady	Jane Leslie Conly
Crazy: A Novel	Benjamin Lebert
Cross Your Fingers, Spit in Your Hat	Alvin Schwartz
Cujo	Stephen King
Curses, Hexes and Spells	Daniel Cohen
Cut	Patricia McCormick
Daddy's Roommate	Michael Willhoite
Daughters of Eve	Lois Duncan
Deal With It!	Esther Drill
Deenie	Judy Blume
Detour for Emmy	Marilyn Reynolds
Draw Me A Star	Eric Carle
Earth's Children (series)	Jean M. Auel
Fade	Robert Cormier
Fahrenheit 451	Ray Bradbury
Fallen Angels	Walter Dean Myers
Family Secrets	Norma Klein
Fat Kid Rules the World	K.L. Going
Final Exit	Derek Humphry
Flowers for Algernon	Daniel Keyes
Forever	Judy Blume
Friday Night Lights	H.G. Bissenger
Girls and Sex	Wardell Pomeroy

Title	Author
Go Ask Alice	Anonymous
Goosebumps (series)	R.L. Stine
Gossip Girl (series)	Cecily von Ziegesar
Grendel	John Gardner
Guess What?	Mem Fox
Halloween ABC	Eve Merriam
Harris and Me	Gary Paulsen
Harry Potter (series)	J.K. Rowling
Heather Has Two Mommies	Leslea Newman
His Dark Materials (series)	Philip Pullman
I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings	Maya Angelou
I Saw Esau	Iona Opte
In the Night Kitchen	Maurice Sendak
It's Perfectly Normal	Robie Harris
It's So Amazing	Robie Harris
Jack	A.M. Homes
James and the Giant Peach	Roald Dahl
Julie of the Wolves	Jean Craighead George
	James Lincoln Collier and
	Christopher Collier
Jump Ship to Freedom	Steven Gould
Jumper	Barbara Park
Junie B. Jones	Mark Mathabane
Kaffir Boy	Lois Duncan
Killing Mr. Griffen	Linda de Haan
King and King	E.R. Frank
Life is Funny	Helen Bannerman
Little Black Sambo	William Golding
Lord of the Flies	Barbara Park
Mick Harte Was Here	Babette Cole
Mommy Laid an Egg	James Lincoln Collier and
	Christopher Collier
My Brother Sam is Dead	Richard Wright
Native Son	John Steinbeck
Of Mice and Men	Kevin Henkes
Olive's Ocean	Marion Dane Bauer
On My Honor	Ken Kesey
One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest	Judith Guest
Ordinary People	Ken Follett
Pillars of the Earth	Howard Stern
Private Parts	Alex Sanchez
Rainbow Boys	Mildred Taylor
Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry	Chris Crutcher
Running Loose	Alvin Schwartz
Scary Stories (series)	Jenny Davis
Sex Education	

Title	Author
Shade's Children	Garth Nix
Slaughterhouse-Five	Kurt Vonnegut
Sleeping Beauty Trilogy	A.N. Roquelaure (Anne Rice)
Snow Falling on Cedars	David Guterson
So Far From the Bamboo Grove	Yoko Watkins
Song of Solomon	Toni Morrison
Speak	Laurie Halse Anderson
Staying Fat for Sarah Byrnes	Chris Crutcher
Summer of My German Soldier	Bette Greene
That Was Then, This is Now	S.E. Hinton
The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn	Mark Twain
The Adventures of Super Diaper Baby	Dav Pilkey
The Adventures of Tom Sawyer	Mark Twain
The Anarchist Cookbook	William Powell
The Bluest Eye	Toni Morrison
The Boy Who Lost His Face	Louis Sachar
The Catcher in the Rye	J.D. Salinger
The Chocolate War	Robert Cormier
The Color Purple	Alice Walker
The Dead Zone	Stephen King
The Drowning of Stephen Jones	Bette Greene
The Earth, My Butt, and Other Big Round Things	Carolyn Mackler
The Face on the Milk Carton	Caroline B. Cooney
The Facts Speak for Themselves	Brock Cole
The Fighting Ground	Avi
The Giver	Lois Lowry
The Goats	Brock Cole
The Great Gilly Hopkins	Katherine Paterson
The Handmaid's Tale	Margaret Atwood
The House of Spirits	Isabel Allende
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The Kite Runner	Khaled Hosseini
The Lovely Bones	Alice Sebold
The Outsiders	S.E. Hinton
The Perks of Being a Wallflower	Stephen Chbosky
The Pigman	Paul Zindel
The Stupids (series)	Harry Allard
The Terrorist	Caroline B. Cooney
The Things They Carried	Tim O'Brien
The Upstairs Room	Johanna Reiss
The Wish Giver	Bill Brittain
The Witches	Roald Dahl
Tiger Eyes	Judy Blume
To Kill a Mockingbird	Harper Lee

Title	Author
ttyl; ttfn; l8r g8r (series)	Lauren Myracle
We All Fall Down	Robert Cormier
Whale Talk	Chris Crutcher
What My Mother Doesn't Know	Sonya Sones
What's Happening to My Body Book	Lynda Madaras
What's Happening to my Body? Book for Boys: A Growing-Up Guide for Parents & Sons	Lynda Madaras
What's Happening to my Body? Book for Girls: A Growing-Up Guide for Parents & Daughters	Lynda Madaras
When Dad Killed Mom	Julius Lester
Where Did I Come From?	Peter Mayle
Where's Waldo?	Martin Hanford
Women on Top: How Real Life Has Changed Women's Fantasies	Nancy Friday
You Hear Me?	Betsy Franco

Source: American Library Association, Top 200 Banned Books in the United States, 1990-2009 (Duplicates removed)