

TESTIMONY FOR BILL #1282
Senate Judiciary Committee
May 7, 2013

Good afternoon. My name is Brian Camenker. Our pro-family organization, MassResistance, has been active in Massachusetts for over 18 years and represents parents across the Commonwealth (and in other states) regarding issues in the public schools. I wrote the Parental Notification Law, Ch. 71, Sec. 32A, which was passed by the Legislature and signed by Gov. Bill Weld in 1996.

I'm here in support of House Bill 1282, which has attracted bi-partisan support in the Legislature. This bill deals with the dissemination of "matter harmful to minors" in schools. Over the past several years this has become a huge problem in the schools, and parents are powerless to do anything about it.

Psychologists tell us that very sexually explicit and quite graphic material can have terrible and lifelong effects on children, adolescents, and teenagers whose minds are still developing.

Much of this material would cause an adult who gave it to kids, to be arrested and labeled a sex offender. But school officials do it with impunity. But when parents complain to school officials, they are ignored and even belittled and intimidated.

One example is a book which was on a required reading list at my own kids' high school. It is called "The Perks of Being a Wallflower."

This book includes, among other things:

- Anal sex between men and boys, and between teenaged boys.
- A boy having sex with a dog.
- Boys masturbating.
- Boys sodomizing girls.
- A girl putting an object in her vagina and then masturbating with it.
- Illegal drug use presented as normal.
- A great deal of vulgar and graphic profanity.

This is just one example of what parents and children have to deal with. And it's gotten worse in recent years in Massachusetts public schools, and has become pervasive.

Interestingly, this particular book is something that teachers trumpet as being "award-winning." One must wonder about the minds of people who would give it to kids at all, much less give it any kind of award.

Obviously, there is a much bigger problem going on, when parents and a bipartisan group of legislators must file a bill like this. But it's an important start. It's up to you to act on it. Parents are really outraged. Thank you.

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