

**Hailie Bonz**

**Urbandale High School Senior**

Hi, my name is Hailie Bonz. I am a senior at, and the class president of, Urbandale High School. I have been directly harmed by SF 496, which targets school libraries, because it restricts my access to books, including classics like *The Color Purple* and *The Handmaid's Tale*.

As an avid reader, I believe books are crucial to explore ideas, develop curiosity, and grow intellectually. All students deserve the freedom to choose what literary works they'd like to read. SF 496 suppresses our freedom of expression by eliminating our agency to make this choice.

School and classroom libraries are important resources that ensure that all students have access to books and information. Not everyone can afford to buy a copy of every book they'd like to read – consequently, a suppression of ideas and viewpoints in libraries deprives whole communities and generations of an oasis on knowledge and growth. I have chosen to speak out to preserve our intellectual freedom and defend the right to read for myself and my fellow students in Iowa.

Thank You.