

# FREEDOM FROM RELIGION *foundation*

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**SENT VIA EMAIL AND U.S. MAIL**

**mtgcorrespondence@mail.house.gov, george.santos@mail.house.gov**

The Honorable Marjorie Taylor Greene  
403 Cannon Building  
Washington DC 20515

The Honorable George Santos  
1117 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington DC 20515

Re: Unforeseen consequences of promoting public school book bans

Dear Representatives Greene and Santos:

We are writing to caution you to be careful what you wish for. On behalf of the Freedom From Religion Foundation, we are writing not only to object to H.R. 863, the book banning bill that you are sponsoring, but to warn you that this bill would have unforeseen consequences that might give you pause. It would effectively outlaw the bible in public schools.

FFRF is a national nonprofit organization with more than 40,000 largely nonreligious members across the country, including members in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. FFRF represents more than 600 members in Georgia and more than 2,000 members in New York state. FFRF works to defend the constitutional principle of separation between state and church and educates about nontheism.

H.R. 863 purports to prohibit publishers from “furnishing sexually explicit material” to public schools or educational agencies, and would withhold federal funds from schools that “obtain” such material. There are several major problems with this bill.

First, the definition of “sexually explicit material” is notoriously difficult to state with clarity. What is considered appropriate for material related to sexuality in

K-12 school libraries varies from community to community, and shifts over time. Local school librarians and school boards are the best entities to make these decisions. The U.S. Congress is the worst body to make such community-level decisions, much less launch a search-and-destroy mission to weed books from public school libraries or curricula.

Second, most of the material that has garnered recent media attention for being “sexually explicit” is tame compared to some classic literature. Rather than objecting to sexual content, your real objection appears to be against books that discuss same-sex relationships or include transgender characters, or have discussion or exploration of experiences by characters who are Black. Censorship is plainly your motivation, rather than real concern for student well-being.

Finally, we urge you to consider the consequences if schools were to take this bill seriously. May we suggest that, if you care about protecting children, you are looking at the wrong books? If schools comb through their libraries for sexually explicit content, the first book that would certainly need to be removed would be the bible. Attached is an addendum with a shocking but only partial list of sexually inappropriate and explicit biblical passages.

Should a story of a prostitute who “lusted after her loves, whose genitals were like those of donkeys and whose emission was like that of horses” be available to peruse in school libraries? (Ezekiel 23:20) Do you really want to offer children this reading material: “My beloved put his hand by the hole of the door, and my bowels were moved for him”? (Song of Solomon 5:4)

The bible’s sexually explicit passages are far from the only objectionable material in a K-12 public school setting. As a self-described Christian nationalist, Representative Greene, surely you are intimately familiar with the many unsavory themes of the bible. bible. As Richard Dawkins put it so memorably in *The God Delusion*: “The God of the Old Testament is arguably the most unpleasant character in all fiction: jealous and proud of it; a petty, unjust, unforgiving control-freak; a vindictive, bloodthirsty ethnic cleanser; a misogynistic, homophobic, racist, infanticidal, genocidal, filicidal, pestilential, megalomaniacal, sadomasochistic, capriciously malevolent bully.” Thomas Paine in *The Age of Reason* truly observed, “Whenever we read the obscene stories, the voluptuous debaucheries, the cruel and torturous executions, the unrelenting vindictiveness with which more than half the Bible is filled, it would be more consistent that we called it the word of a Demon, than the word of God.” If your goal were truly to protect young students from

distressing literature, shielding young and immature eyes from the barbarisms and obscenities in the bible would be the place to start.

But history has taught us that banning books is the wrong path. Autocrats ban books to silence dissenting opinions, while free societies trust students and their parents to wade through various perspectives and think for themselves. H.R. 863 is wrong in principle, as well as being unworkable and having unintended consequences. We urge you to abandon this misguided bill and to focus on efforts that will actually help public school students.

Very truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Annie Laurie Gaylor Dan Barker". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Annie Laurie Gaylor & Dan Barker  
Co-Presidents  
ALG/DB:rdj

Enclosure

## **Addendum — sexually explicit biblical verses**

### **GENESIS**

- 4:19           Man “took unto him 2 wives”
- 12:13–19     Man prostitutes wife
- 16:2–4       Wife to hubby: “go in unto my maid”
- 17:9–14      “Ye shall circumcise the flesh of your foreskin”
- 19:1–8       Rape virgins instead of male angels
- 19:30–38     “Righteous man” impregnates his 2 daughters while drunk
- 20:2–12      Man prostitutes wife again
- 20:12         Woman married to half-brother
- 22:24         Bible’s first “concubine”
- 24:2–3,9     Place your hand “under the thigh” (sexual organs) of someone swearing sacred oaths
- 25:1–6       Keeping mistresses is not adultery
- Ch. 29–      30 Sordid tales of surrogate motherhood
- 30:3          Woman gives handmaid for hubby’s sexual use
- 30:9          More sordid marital triangles
- 32:25         God grabs Jacob’s testicles
- 34:1–31      Brothers are riled when sister is defiled
- 34:25         Circumcised men “were sore”
- 35:22         Man sleeps with father’s concubine
- 38:8–10      Onan’s method of birth control (withdrawal ejaculation) not approved
- 38:12–30     Woman “plays the harlot” to seduce father-in-law
- 39:7–20      Woman tries to rape man
- 47:29         Man ordered to place hand under father’s thigh

### **EXODUS**

- 4:25           Mom cuts off son’s foreskin with (ouch!) stone
- 20:26          God specifies building of altar to prevent exposure to nakedness
- 21:7–11       Female servants can be used for sex
- 21:10          Rule permits polygamy
- 22:19          Death decreed for bestiality

### **LEVITICUS**

- 12:1–8        Bible calls childbirth a sin
- 15:16–18      Sperm and intercourse are unclean
- 15:19–33      Menstruation unclean; elaborate rules

15:29–30	Women require sin offering for menstrual periods
18:22	Homosexuality declared an abomination
18:23	More bestiality
19:20–22	Man gets forgiven, slave girl gets flogging
20:10	Adulterers shall be put to death
20:13	Death decreed for homosexuals
20:15–16	Death decreed for bestiality (human & beast)
21:9	Burn whore-daughters of priests
26:29	Cannibalistic curse: Eat your sons and daughters

## **NUMBERS**

5:11–31	Fidelity test (belly rot) for women only
25:1	“People began to commit whoredom”
25:4	“Take all the heads of the people, and hang them up before the Lord”
25:6–8	Holy man impales woman through her belly
31:17–18	Virgins raped as war booty

## **DEUTERONOMY**

21:10–14	God okays captured maidens as trial wives
22:5	Men’s clothing not to be worn by women & vice versa
22:13–21	A bride not a virgin must die
22:23–26	Virgin raped in city given no pity
22:28–29	Paying father to have sex with daughter
23:1	Man “wounded in the stones” (testicles) can’t enter congregation
23:2	Children born out of wedlock condemned as bastards to 10th generation
23:10–11	Nocturnal emissions discussed
23:12–14	Defecation: Carry paddle, dig hole, & cover up
25:5–10	Woman has sexual cause to spit in man’s face
25:11–12	A woman shall have her hand cut off for touching a man's penis
28:27	Hemorrhoids (“emerods”) a punishment for sin
28:30	Lord's curse: Another man shall lie with groom's bride first
28:53–57	Curse: Eat your own body & children

## **JUDGES**

3:20–22	Dagger in fat king's gut gets “dirt” out
4:21–22	Hammer & nail murder by woman
8:30	Gideon had many wives, concubines
Ch. 11	Virgin daughter sacrificed to God

- 14:20 Samson gives away wife to another man
- 16:1 Samson “went in unto” harlot
- 16:4–19 Biblical game of S & M
- 19:1–30 Woman raped and ruined by homosexuals
- 21:6–25 Amidst carnage virgins captured for wives

## **RUTH**

- 3:6–9 To “hook” him as a husband, Ruth sleeps with Boaz. (4:9–10 Boaz buys Ruth)

## **I SAMUEL**

- 1:5–11 Lord “shuts” & “opens” womb
- 2:8 “The Lord ... lifteth up the beggar from the dunghill”
- 2:22–23 Priests’ sons copulate at door of tabernacle
- 5:9–12 Philistines “smitten with emerods” (hemorrhoids) as punishment for stealing ark
- 6:1–5 To placate God, make golden hemorrhoids
- 18:25–27 200 foreskins gain David a king’s daughter
- 25:22,34 A subject never mentioned in sermons

## **II SAMUEL**

- 3:7 Concubine hanky-panky
- 11:1–27 Uriah murdered so David can get his wife
- 12:11–12 Obscene performance to be viewed by all Israel
- 5:13 David had many wives, concubines
- Ch. 13 Amnon rapes his sister
- 16:20–22 Absalom rapes father’s concubines on rooftop
- 20:3 David imprisons concubines for above

## **I KINGS**

- 1:1–4 Virgin as therapy for sick old man
- 3:16–28 Two “harlots” feud-sexist tale
- 11:1–10 Wise Solomon has wives and concubines galore, promiscuous with “many strange women”
- 14:10, 16:11, 21:21 A subject never mentioned in sermons

## **II KINGS**

- 6:28–29 “So we boiled my son, and did eat him”
- 9:8 A subject never mentioned in sermons

9:30–37 Unspeakable assassination of Jezebel  
23:7 Male houses of prostitution destroyed

## **I CHRONICLES**

1:32–33 More concubines galore

## **II CHRONICLES**

11:21 King had 18 wives & 60 concubines

## **ESTHER**

Ch.1–2 Sexual contest for new queen  
1:11 Queen asked to "display" body for men

## **PSALMS**

45:10–17 Wily seduction by promiscuous Solomon

## **PROVERBS**

5:3 “Lips of strange woman” warning  
7:5–27 Intemperate warnings of “strange” women  
30:20 Adulteress “eateth, and wipeth her mouth”

## **SONG OF SOLOMON**

5:4 Man touches woman’s “hole of the door” and “my bowels were moved for him”  
8:8 Little sister has no breasts

## **ISAIAH**

3:16 “The Lord will discover their secret parts”  
9:20 Every man shall eat the flesh of his own arm  
14:21–22 Slaughter children for fathers’ iniquity  
16:11 Bible boast: “My bowels shall sound like an harp”  
36:12 Eating dung and drinking piss

## **JEREMIAH**

13:25–26 God will “lift up your skirts so your shame will be seen.”  
16:4 Grievous, obscene deaths

## **LAMENTATIONS**

2:19–20 Something to lament

4:10 Women boil children for food

## **EZEKIEL**

4:12–15 God says: Eat bread defiled with dung

5:8–10 What's for dinner?

8:2 Lord's loins make guest appearance

16:15 Fornications pour out

16:36–37 Their "filthiness poured out ..."

23:1–40 Grisly tale related of two sisters who are whores

23:20 Sex organs and ejaculate of harlot's lovers compared to asses & horses

Ch. 24 Lord orders lewd "woman" boiled into "scum"

29:7–8 God performs bloody castration via a sword

## **HOSEA**

1:2–11 God tells Hosea to take whore to wife

2:1–15 Complications ensue (lewdly described)

## **NAHUM**

3:4–6 Lord: "I will discover thy skirts upon thy face"

## **MALACHI**

2:1–4 Angry god will spread feces on your faces

## **MATTHEW**

5:27–30 A man may lust, but it's not just

5:31–32 Man can divorce wife for fornication

19:3–9 Man who divorces and remarries is adulterer

19:12 Castrate yourself for Jesus

22:24 Woman must marry dead husband's brother

## **LUKE**

2:21 Eight day old Jesus is circumcised

## **ACTS**

8:38 Eunuch baptized

15:24 Circumcision is not commandment

16:3 Paul circumcises adult



## **ROMANS**

1:26–32      Gay man and lesbians “worthy of death”

## **I CORINTHIANS**

6:18–20      Abstain from extramarital sex

7:1–40      To be more holy, refrain from sex wholly

7:18–19      If you're not circumcised, stay that way

## **GALATIANS**

5:1–4      Paul speaks against circumcision

## **I TIMOTHY**

3:2,12      More than one wife OK, except for bishop

## **REVELATION**

17:1–16      A drunken whore is stripped, eaten and burned