

## KEY TAKEAWAYS

### FOCUS ON YOUTH

**Most concerning impact of bans on youth:**

- Loss of history; loss of access to high quality, well rounded education; loss of access to books and access to different perspectives and views
- Facing more bullying and mental health issues in schools

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### TALK ABOUT THE BANS

**The volume of bans helps drive home that this is a political strategy about controlling people — don't be afraid to list them out or put them in a visual graphic.**

- Since 2020, there have been over 1,700 book bans in the country and hundreds of new laws are censoring what teachers can talk about.
- In the past 5 months alone, 82 laws have passed across states to ban and restrict transgender people and children.

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### TALK ABOUT CONTROL AND POWER

**Once our audiences understand the sheer number of bans, they begin to see the policies as disingenuous, questioning the political motivation behind them. Politicians are trying to pass these laws because they want to control people.**

- Politicians are trying to pass these laws because they want to control people
- They want to impose their religious beliefs on everyone
- They want to divide people

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### MEET PARENTS WHERE THEY'RE AT

**Convey hope and empowerment in communications. This issue is very scary. Fear may spark a desire to take action – but fear can also be quickly paralyzing.**

- It is a hard and scary time to be a parent. Society and technology are changing fast. We want to keep our kids safe and protect them. The answer is not bans, censorship, and things that create an unsafe environment for everyone.
- Let's provide students with accurate, age-appropriate sex education, while continuing to allow parents to opt their kids out, if they choose.
- Let's reject politicians who are riling people up and turning us against each other just for their own political power. Let's get informed and support each other and our kids.

# LAWS AND POLICIES CURRENTLY PROMOTED BY “PARENTS’ RIGHTS” GROUPS

Countering Parents’ Rights Frames | March 2024

Since 2020, there have been over 1,700 book bans in the United States. Hundreds of new laws are censoring what teachers can talk about, banning sex ed, stopping teachers from teaching empathy, and putting LGBTQ+ youth in danger. Those pushing this agenda call it “parents’ rights.” But it is a strategy funded by far-right activists at the national level to gain political power.

**BANS ON BOOKS IN SCHOOL** in schools including books about Anne Frank, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and LGBTQ+ young people, with threats of fines and prison sentences for libraries.

**BANS ON LESSONS THAT TEACH STUDENTS EMPATHY**, how to get along with each other, manage stress and anxiety and make good decisions

**BANS ON SCHOOLS PROTECTING LGBTQ+ YOUTH FROM BULLYING.**

**BANS ON TEENS ACCESSING ABORTION** if a parent disagrees with abortion.

**BANS AND CENSORSHIP ON WHAT TEACHERS CAN SAY RELATED TO SEXUAL ORIENTATION.**

**MANDATORY SHARING OF PRIVATE INFORMATION RELATED TO TRANS YOUTH AND THEIR PARENTS,** without regard to the child’s safety at home.

**BANS AND CENSORSHIP ON HOW TEACHERS CAN TALK ABOUT RACISM AND U.S. HISTORY,** including penalties and fines and schools losing millions of state dollars.

**BANS BLOCKING TRANSGENDER GIRLS FROM PARTICIPATING IN SPORTS,** including threats of genital inspections and period tracking for all girls.

**BANS ON SEX EDUCATION.**

**LAWS REQUIRING PARENTAL NOTIFICATION FOR TEENS TO OBTAIN BIRTH CONTROL.**

**BANS MAKING GENDER AFFIRMING HEALTH CARE AND COUNSELING ILLEGAL FOR TRANS YOUTH.**

**LAWS THAT TAKE MONEY FROM PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND GIVE IT TO RELIGIOUS SCHOOLS.**