



Laura Belin <laurarbelin@bleedingheartland.com>

The Grassley Bulletin - Explicit Books in Schools

Speaker Pat Grassley <pat.grassley@legis.iowa.gov>
Reply-To: Speaker Pat Grassley <pat.grassley@legis.iowa.gov>
To: laurarbelin@bleedingheartland.com

Fri, Feb 10, 2023 at 9:22 AM

[View this email in your browser](#)



To the People of House District 57

It was a busy week 5 in the Iowa Capitol. We passed a number of bills on the Iowa House floor including a [school funding increase of 3%](#).

Protecting Iowans' Access to Health Care

House File 161 was another bill passed through the Iowa House this week. This bill limits noneconomic damages that can be awarded for a medical malpractice claim at \$2 million if the incident happened at a hospital and \$1 million if it happened somewhere else.

In a case of medical malpractice that results in loss of a bodily function, substantial disfigurement, or death, there are three types of damages a jury can award:

- Economic damages – quantifiable damages like lost wages, loss of future earning capacity, cost of medical bills. This bill does not limit what can be awarded to the plaintiff in economic damages.
- Punitive damages – Deliberate disregard for the rights or safety of the patient. This bill does not limit what can be awarded to the plaintiff in punitive damages.
- Noneconomic damages – mental or emotional anguish that can't be quantified. This bill caps noneconomic damages at \$1 million or \$2 million, adjusted for inflation

annually beginning in 2028.

No amount of money can ever make up for the loss of a loved one. But in Iowa, massive noneconomic damage awards drive up liability costs and make the cost of providing care in Iowa less competitive. One massive award for noneconomic damages can close a smaller hospital or a physician's practice, leaving all of those Iowans without access to the care they may need.

I supported this legislation because I believe we need to compensate people for medical injuries, but we also need to keep Iowa's healthcare industry intact and make sure healthcare is there for Iowans when they need it, especially in rural Iowa.

Sexually Explicit Material in Schools

This week, the Government Oversight committee brought in five Iowa moms to share their experience challenging age-inappropriate books in their child's school library or curriculum. The parents cited graphic sexual images, explicit sexual content, and disturbing accounts of violent sexual assault, rape, and pedophilia.

Before we start to move any legislation forward, I want to take some time in my newsletter to be clear on exactly what we're talking about here because some of the facts have gotten muddled.

There are a couple of takeaways I want you to get from reading my newsletter this weekend.

1. This is a serious issue.

We're not talking about books with a couple of swear words or romantic scenes. We're talking about material that is pornographic.

I know it's hard to believe so I want to provide you with some specific examples. I don't feel comfortable sending the images directly to your inbox, but at the very bottom of this section I've included a passage. Please, if you are not comfortable reading this material scroll past it.

If you still find yourself skeptical that this could possibly be true, please take the time to follow the links and view the passages and images from these three book examples for yourself. I have more examples I can provide as well. All three of these books were found in school districts across Iowa.

[Let's Talk About It](#) is a graphic novel described as "The Teens Guide to Sex, Relationships

and Being a Human.” The book contains sexually explicit illustrations with instructions, tips and suggestions on how to perform various sex acts along with masturbation. The book also suggests safe ways to consume porn.

[Gender Queer](#) is a graphic novel about gender identity and sexual orientation written to relate to others who are struggling with gender identity. The book explores the use of pronouns and hormone-blocking therapies. It contains graphic illustrations of oral sex.

[Push](#) is described by Booklooks.org as a “heavily sexually abused teenager’s life circumstances change when a new mentor teaches her to read.” The book contains detailed and disturbing instances of incest and sexual molestation.

2. We're not banning books.

This isn't about banning books. This is about ensuring sexually explicit materials aren't available in public schools without parental knowledge and consent. Whether these books are removed from school libraries or given a parental consent restriction, parents are still able to allow their children to read whatever books they'd like. The child may just not be able to get sexually explicit material from school.

3. The system is broken.

You would assume that once those books I mentioned above were objected to by parents that they would be immediately removed or placed under restriction, right?

Wrong.

The process to challenge a book is a bureaucratic mess and gives little to no power to parents. One parent from Monday's meeting described the book reconsideration process in her school district which required her to go through an eight-step process that included at least four different administrator-selected committees and other boards. Eventually, she hired an attorney to help guide her through the process. She lost at every step along the way. The book *Gender Queer* is still available in the school without restriction.

The Government Oversight committee is working to set up another meeting with the school administrators so that we can hear their side of the story when it comes to the challenging process.

WARNING: GRAPHIC CONTENT BELOW


Below is the passage I want to provide as an example. It is not even the worst example from the book *Push*. It is just the only one I could get myself to include. Again, I must warn

you that it is very explicit. I apologize for sharing, but I just want people to understand how serious this is.

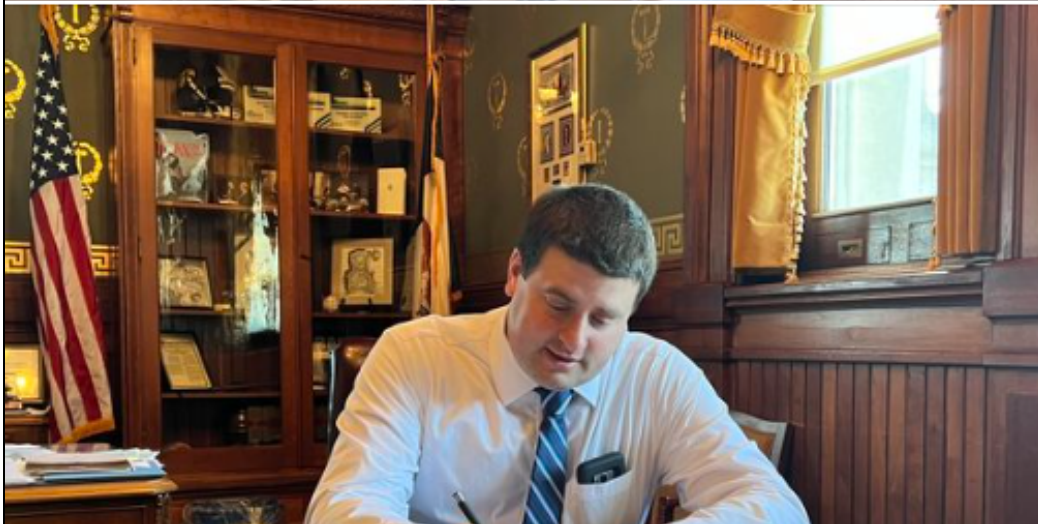

Let me also just note that the fact that I have to be this delicate about this material in my newsletter, which has an adult audience, makes it even more clear that this stuff does not belong in schools.

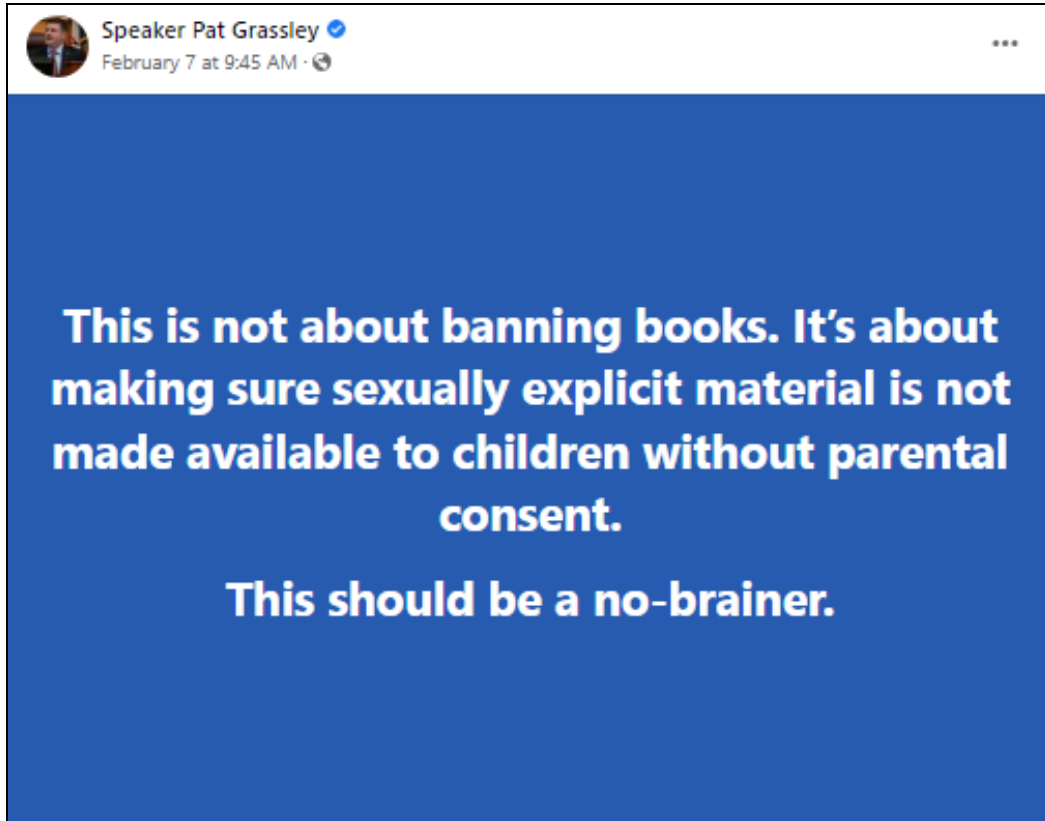
My clit swell up think Daddy. Daddy sick me, disgust me, but still he sex me up. I nawshus in my stomach but hot tight in my twat and I think I want it back, the smell of the bedroom, the hurt- he slap my face till it sting and my ears sing separate songs from each other, call me names, pump my pussy in out in out in out awww I come. He bite me hard. A hump! A hump! He slam his hips into me HARD. I scream pain he come. He slap my thighs like cowboys do horses on TV. Shiver. Orgasm in me, his body shaking, grab me, call me Fat Mama, Big Hole! You LOVE it! Say you love it! I wanna say I DON"T. I wanna say I'm a chile. But my pussy popping like grease in frying pan. He slam in me again. His dick soft. He start sucking my tittie.

[Follow My Facebook Page](#)

 **Speaker Pat Grassley** ✓
February 7 at 4:00 PM · 🌐

Just signed SF 192 to increase SSA funding for public schools by 3%.
-\$106.8 million more for public schools than last year.
-\$3.7 billion for public schools in FY '24 just in School Foundation Aid.
-\$7635 per student, which is an increase from last fiscal year of \$222 per kid.





Continue to Keep in Touch

The Bulletin is distributed to local newspapers and interested constituents. I encourage you to contact me at any time throughout the year with any issues or concerns. Whether I am down in Des Moines or on the farm in New Hartford, remember that I work for you. Without your input, I cannot properly represent your views. I look forward to hearing from you this legislative session, and I am excited to continue my work for the people of House District 57.



Receive this as a forward?

Subscribe to the Grassley Bulletin

Copyright © 2023 Iowa House of Representatives, All rights reserved.

You signed up to receive email updates from Rep. Pat Grassley

Our mailing address is:

Iowa House of Representatives

[30601 Deer Trail Dr.](#)

[New Hartford, Ia 50660](#)

[Add us to your address book](#)

Want to change how you receive these emails?

You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).

