



Dear Honorable Members of the Fairfax County School Board,

We are a group of over 425 Queer students and allies across FCPS who are part of the Pride Liberation Project, a coalition of students working to uplift the Queer community. Student representatives from over 30 schools, including nearly every high school in FCPS, have signed this letter, and many of us are students of color, low-income, gender expansive, and not out to our families and communities. **We are writing to ask you to reject calls to remove Maia Kobabe's *Gender Queer* and Jonathan Evison's *Lawn Boy* from FCPS libraries.**

LGBTQIA+ representation in literature is critical to fostering validation, acceptance, and self-affirmation for Queer students. Research indicates that positive LGBTQIA+ representation can empower Queer youth to both cope with discrimination and overcome the turbulence of adolescence and young adulthood.¹ Given the elevated rates of depression, harassment, and bullying that LGBQ* youth face in Fairfax County compared to our non-LGBQ peers, it is imperative that young adult novels depict positive LGBTQIA+ representations.² Unfortunately, current portrayals of LGBTQIA+ youth are severely limited. Existing LGBTQIA+ young adult novels often do not depict gender fluid, non-binary, and asexual characters.³ Moreover, depictions that do exist are often stereotypical, contributing to a lack of knowledge around gender expansive people in society.⁴ Removing two award winning books that dismantle LGBTQIA+ stereotypes from FCPS libraries only contributes to the dearth of positive representations of Queer people, perpetuating an unwelcoming school environment for LGBTQIA+ students.

We understand that *Gender Queer* and *Lawn Boy* contain descriptions of sex. Nonetheless, our secondary school libraries cannot isolate themselves from broader societal dialogues, including conversations about sexual relationships, without compromising a student's ability to question, seek answers, and formulate opinions on an inescapable component of human life. *Gender Queer* and *Lawn Boy* offer much needed explanations to students who

¹ <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/19361653.2015.1040193?journalCode=wjly20>

²

<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/health-humanservices/sites/health-humanservices/files/assets/documents/youth%20survey/ys%20fact%20sheets/lgbq%20-%20fcys%2019.pdf>

³ <https://scholarworks.uni.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=2518&context=grp>

⁴

https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/10911359.2014.995392?casa_token=sxMpfepUNN0AAAAA%3At0ogYHC4rzbj7OBmCVSjYX5eFU8ndMwVffYv4ryn4rzcjSQHUY9l_kZEFwaduKqzPwhGDUcfDnO

*The FCPS youth survey does not collect data on transgender students.

aren't able to ask staff or family members for fear of their safety. Moreover, hundreds of books in our schools already depict heterosexual relationships and physical intimacy, such as John Green's *Looking For Alaska*, Jenny Downham's *You Against Me*, Simone Elkeles's *Rules of Attraction*, Cassandra Clare's *City of Heavenly Fire*, Stephen King's *It*, and Meg Cabot's *Ready or Not*. Many of these books are required reading. By holding books that describe LGBTQIA+ relationships to a different standard compared to these novels, FCPS creates an inequitable, exclusionary, and heteronormative educational environment for Queer students.

As students, we are tired of being scrutinized and targeted for who we are. We simply want to be treated equally in our schools, including in our libraries. Please reject attacks against LGBTQIA+ literature, and allow *Gender Queer* and *Lawn Boy* to remain in our schools.

With Respect,

TD, Student at Annandale High School
BG, Student at Bull Run Elementary School
MM, Student at Bull Run Elementary School
AC, Student at Bull Run Elementary School
SA, Student at Bull Run Elementary School
BB, Student at Cal Sandburg Middle School
IA, Student at Cedar Lane School
GA, Student at Centreville High School
SC, Student at Centreville High School
JS, Student at Centreville High School
PK, Student at Centreville High School
CS, Student at Centreville High School
BG, Student at Centreville High School
AM, Student at Centreville High School
CV, Student at Centreville High School
LD, Student at Centreville High School
CG, Student at Centreville High School
LN, Student at Centreville High School
VV, Student at Chantilly High School
MR, Student at Chantilly High School
RS, Student at Chantilly High School
KS, Student at Chantilly High School
PC, Student at Chantilly High School
YR, Student at Chantilly High School

To protect the privacy and safety of Queer students, students are signing this letter with their initials, rather than their full names.

SR, Student at Chantilly High School
AM, Student at Chantilly High School
RK, Student at Chantilly High School
AB, Student at Chantilly High School
IR, Student at Chantilly High School
TR, Student at Chantilly High School
C K, Student at Chantilly High School
NK, Student at Chantilly High School
NB, Student at Chantilly High School
VN, Student at Chantilly High School
AD, Student at Chantilly High School
DS, Student at Chantilly High School
AE, Student at Chantilly High School
EF, Student at Chantilly High School
ET, Student at Chantilly High School
EP, Student at Chantilly High School
RV, Student at Chantilly High School
JN, Student at Chantilly High School
LT, Student at Chantilly High School
AR, Student at Chantilly High School
CR, Student at Chantilly High School
AH, Student at Chantilly High School
AS, Student at Chantilly High School
LZ, Student at Chantilly High School
PT, Student at Chantilly High School
TT, Student at Chantilly High School
AO, Student at Chantilly High School
TBH, Student at Chantilly High School
RN, Student at Chantilly High School
RF, Student at Chantilly High School
LC, Student at Chantilly High School
DD, Student at Chantilly High School
SD, Student at Chantilly High School
CK, Student at Chantilly High School
JS, Student at Chantilly High School
RA, Student at Chantilly High School
RT, Student at Chantilly High School
SL, Student at Chantilly High School
SW, Student at Chantilly High School

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CH, Student at Chantilly High School
AR, Student at Chantilly High School
AL, Student at Chantilly High School
CCS, Student at Chantilly High School
JD, Student at Edison High School
NA, Student at Edison High School
HW, Student at Edison High School
YB, Student at Edison High School
AH, Student at Edison High School
MB, Student at Edison High School
AI, Student at Edison High School
AJ, Student at Edison High School
DG, Student at Fairfax High School
BH, Student at Fairfax High School
LF, Student at Fairfax High School
MM, Student at Fairfax High School
MC, Student at Fairfax High School
DD, Student at Fairfax High School
AS, Student at Fairfax High School
SM, Student at Fairfax High School
MK, Student at Fairfax High School
KU, Student at Fairfax High School
MT, Student at Fairfax High School
IP, Student at Fairfax High School
EK, Student at Fairfax High School
VO, Student at Fairfax High School
AM, Student at Fairfax High School
KM, Student at Fairfax High School
ZU, Student at Fairfax High School
KB, Student at Fairfax High School
IR, Student at Fairfax High School
TS, Student at Fairfax High School
FN, Student at Fairfax High School
AH, Student at Fairfax High School
JR, Student at Fairfax High School
KP, Student at Fairfax High School
JK, Student at Fairfax High School
MP, Student at Falls Church High School
NH, Student at Frost Middle School

To protect the privacy and safety of Queer students, students are signing this letter with their initials, rather than their full names.

SR, Student at Hayfield Secondary School
EM, Student at Herndon High School
JH, Student at Herndon High School
LF, Student at Herndon High School
IG, Student at Herndon High School
JM, Student at Herndon High School
LJ, Student at Hybla Valley Elementary School
AR, Student at John R Lewis High School
NL, Student at John R Lewis High School
MS, Student at John R Lewis High School
NK, Student at John R Lewis High School
AR, Student at John R Lewis High School
KC, Student at John R Lewis High School
CH, Teacher at Justice High School
SS, Student at Justice High School
NA, Student at Justice High School
JT, Student at Justice High School
JM, Student at Justice High School
ES, Student at Justice High School
ST, Student at Justice High School
LM, Student at Justice High School
EM, Student at Katherine Johnson Middle School
EKA, Student at Lake Braddock Secondary School
GC, Student at Lake Braddock Secondary School
EB, Student at Lake Braddock Secondary School
ER, Student at Lake Braddock Secondary School
AD, Student at Langley High School
AC, Student at Langley High School
AN, Student at Langley High School
JP, Student at Langley High School
AK, Student at Langley High School
TS, Student at Langley High School
AP, Student at Langley High School
SS, Student at Langley High School
PR, Student at Langley High School
ES, Student at Langley High School
IC, Student at Langley High School
AW, Student at Langley High School
CW, Student at Langley High School

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EL, Student at Langley High School
LB, Student at Longfellow Middle School
AM, Student at Madison High School
LP, Student at Madison High School
AF, Student at Madison High School
VS, Student at Madison High School
MH, Student at Madison High School
CB, Student at Madison High School
GM, Student at Madison High School
AD, Student at Madison High School
LC, Student at Madison High School
AF, Student at Madison High School
AK, Student at Madison High School
EB, Student at Madison High School
MR, Student at Madison High School
AL, Student at Madison High School
FS, Student at Madison High School
WC, Student at Madison High School
NN, Student at Madison High School
ZM, Student at Madison High School
KB, Student at Madison High School
FP, Student at Madison High School
LP, Student at Madison High School
KM, Student at Madison High School
A S, Student at Madison High School
GA, Student at Madison High School
EP, Student at Madison High School
IM, Student at Madison High School
MM, Student at Madison High School
RB, Student at Madison High School
ST, Student at Madison High School
JS, Student at Madison High School
HC, Student at Marshall High School
SP, Student at Marshall High School
MW, Student at Marshall High School
ES, Student at Marshall High School
AS, Student at Marshall High School
IR, Student at Marshall High School
LS, Student at Marshall High School

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MA, Student at Marshall High School
AK, Student at Marshall High School
CE, Student at Marshall High School
AG, Student at Marshall High School
PE, Student at Marshall High School
TK, Student at Marshall High School
HS, Student at Marshall High School
WT, Student at Marshall High School
HM, Student at Marshall High School
RA, Student at Marshall High School
SP, Student at McLean High School
AM, Student at Mclean High School
SC, Student at McLean High School
TC, Student at McLean High School
SH, Student at McLean High School
JZ, Student at McLean High School
NH, Student at McLean High School
NG, Student at McLean High School
MH, Student at McLean High School
HK, Student at McLean High School
SU, Student at McLean High School
RP, Student at McLean High School
PZ, Student at McLean High School
CK, Student at McLean High School
SS, Student at McLean High School
AB, Student at McLean High School
NN, Student at Mclean High School
SS, Student at McLean High School
EN, Student at McLean High School
SS, Student at McLean High School
AH, Student at McLean High School
KB, Student at McLean High School
TB, Student at Mclean High School
TW, Student at McLean High School
JN, Student at McLean High School
BK, Student at Mount Vernon High School
SW, Student at Oakton High School
SCL, Student at Oakton High School
LJ, Student at Oakton High School

To protect the privacy and safety of Queer students, students are signing this letter with their initials, rather than their full names.

SG, Student at Oakton High School
JG, Student at Oakton High School
NY, Student at Oakton High School
WL, Student at Oakton High School
CR, Student at Oakton High School
KP, Student at Oakton High School
KF, Student at Oakton High School
EY, Student at Oakton High School
CC, Student at Oakton High School
MQ, Student at Oakton High School
LC, Student at Oakton High School
SR, Student at Oakton High School
AD, Student at Oakton High School
KL, Student at Oakton High School
AL, Student at Oakton High School
MM, Student at Oakton High School
CL, Student at Oakton High School
PL, Student at Oakton High School
SR, Student at Oakton High School
JL, Student at Oakton High School
AGM, Student at Oakton High School
AM, Student at Oakton High School
LS, Student at Oakton High School
HE, Student at Oakton High School
S T, Student at Oakton High School
EL, Student at Oakton High School
GR, Student at Oakton High School
PO, Student at Oakton High School
CR, Student at Oakton High School
AN, Student at Oakton High School
AC, Student at Oakton High School
KL, Student at Oakton High School
NJ, Student at Oakton High School
CMS, Student at Oakton High School
MS, Student at Oakton High School
SG, Student at Rachel Carson Middle School
JH, Student at Rachel Carson Middle School
HL, Student at Robinson Secondary School
CD, Student at Robinson Secondary School

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KN, Student at Robinson Secondary School
AW, Student at Robinson Secondary School
JD, Student at Robinson Secondary High School
NN, Student at Robinson Secondary School
KH, Student at Robinson Secondary School
LN, Student at Robinson Secondary School
ZE, Student at Robinson Secondary High School
ZK, Student at South County High School
SB, Student at South County High School
AF, Student at South County High School
EM, Student at South County High School
WM, Student at South County High School
LB, Student at South County High School
AS, Student at South County High School
WB, Student at South County High School
NN, Student at South County High School
OI, Student at South County High School
GW, Student at South County High School
KP, Student at South County High School
SH, Student at South County High School
KS, Student at South County High School
KP, Student at South County High School
CV, Student at South County High School
ET, Student at South County High School
MP, Student at South County High School
JD, Student at South County High School
DN, Student at South Lakes High School
IC, Student at South Lakes High School
AN, Student at South Lakes High School
MK, Student at South Lakes High School
BD, Student at South Lakes High School
LB, Student at South Lakes High School
MH, Student at South Lakes High School
MP, Student at South Lakes High School
DJ, Student at South Lakes High School
EB, Student at South Lakes High School
AB, Student at South Lakes High School
HA, Student at South Lakes High School
MH, Student at South Lakes High School

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MA, Student at South Lakes High School
NL, Student at South Lakes High School
GW, Student at South Lakes High School
MD, Student at South Lakes High School
RY, Student at Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology
JY, Student at Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology
JJ, Student at Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology
KX, Student at Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology
AR, Student at Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology
CW, Student at Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology
VD, Student at Thomas Jefferson High School For Science and Technology
NY, Student at Thoreau Middle School
MK, Student at West Potomac High School
AC, Student at West Potomac High School
BA, Student at West Potomac High School
DS, Student at West Potomac High School
DS, Student at West Potomac High School
CR, Student at West Potomac High School
CC, Student at West Potomac High School
NR, Student at West Potomac High School
LW, Student at West Potomac High School
JD, Student at West Potomac High School
LA, Student at West Potomac High School
AA, Student at West Potomac High School
CR, Student at West Potomac High School
JM, Student at West Potomac High School
WM, Student at West Potomac High School
PJ, Student at West Potomac High School
TB, Student at West Potomac High School
HO, Student at West Potomac High School
NJ, Student at West Potomac High School
DS, Student at West Potomac High School
BC, Student at West Potomac High School
SC, Student at West Potomac High School
CM, Student at West Potomac High School
BW, Student at West Potomac High School
LM, Student at West Potomac High School
BC, Student at West Springfield High School
JF, Student at West Springfield High School

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AB, Student at West Springfield High School
SP, Student at West Springfield High School
AW, Student at West Springfield High School
AW, Student at West Springfield High School
KC, Student at West Springfield High School
MC, Student at West Springfield High School
MC, Student at Westfield High School
ML, Student at Westfield High School
NT, Student at Westfield High School
AA, Student at Westfield High School
BM, Student at Westfield High School
DF, Student at Westfield High School
DR, Student at Westfield High School
DB, Student at Westfield High School
NN, Student at Westfield High School
JP, Student at Westfield High School
SB, Student at Westfield High School
SP, Student at Westfield High School
GK, Student at Westfield High School
AR, Student at Westfield High School
JM, Student at Westfield High School
YS, Student at Westfield High School
JS, Student at Westfield High School
MM, Student at Westfield High School
MW, Student at Westfield High School
RL, Student at Westfield High School
JN, Student at Westfield High School
GE, Student at Westfield High School
LM, Student at Westfield High School
BS, Student at Westfield High School
JV, Student at Westfield High School
KV, Student at Westfield High School
GR, Student at Westfield High School
MK, Student at Westfield High School
AS, Student at Westfield High School
HK, Student at Westfield High School
TH, Student at Westfield High School
VU, Student at Westfield High School
MT, Student at Westfield High School

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VT, Student at Westfield High School
NC, Student at Westfield High School
EV, Student at Westfield High School
KH, Student at Westfield High School
NJ, Student at Westfield High School
KB, Student at Westfield High School
AG, Student at Westfield High School
AD, Student at Westfield High School
NL, Student at Westfield High School
NS, Student at Westfield High School
KF, Student at Westfield High School
KH, Student at Westfield High School
DS, Student at Westfield High School
TT, Student at Westfield High School
BJ, Student at Westfield High School
AT, Student at Westfield High School
IC, Student at Westfield High School
TM, Student at Westfield High School
SF, Student at Westfield High School
MP, Student at Westfield High School
HV, Student at Westfield High School
CJ, Student at Westfield High School
KB, Student at Westfield High School
AT, Student at Westfield High School
Z E, Student at Westfield High School
IA, Student at Westfield High School
ML, Student at Westfield High School
MG, Student at Westfield High School
MC, Student at Westfield High School
ST, Student at Westfield High School
CA, Student at Westfield High School
MGH, Student at Westfield High School
LC, Student at Westfield High School
TS, Student at Westfield High School
JP, Student at Westfield High School
CK, Student at Westfield High School
TW, Student at Westfield High School
PM, Student at Westfield High School
PC, Student at Westfield High School

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EV, Student at Westfield High School
S V, Student at Westfield High School
ES, Student at Westfield High School
SD, Student at Westfield High School
TL, Student at Westfield High School
SC, Student at Westfield High School
AD, Student at Westfield High School
RB, Student at Woodson High School
VH, Student at Woodson High School
OP, Student at Woodson High School
MR, Student at Woodson High School
MU, Student at Woodson High School

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