



# NEWS RELEASE

## Congressman Walter B. Jones

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## JONES INTRODUCES PARENTAL EMPOWERMENT ACT OF 2005

*H.R. 2295 would establish local parental advisory boards to review books before they're placed in public elementary schools and libraries*

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Last week, Third District Congressman Walter B. Jones introduced H.R. 2295, the Parental Empowerment Act of 2005. If passed, this legislation will create local parental review boards that will have the authority to review library and classroom-based materials before they are purchased for elementary schools.

“The goal behind this legislation is to empower parents to take charge of the content available to their young children in our public schools,” Jones said. “When parents are active participants in their children’s lives, everyone wins. This legislation will be one avenue to help parents take back their right to determine the appropriateness of the content their children are exposed to.”

Congressman Jones’ interest in this legislation was sparked by a situation in Wilmington, NC where parents became concerned that their young children had access to books of adult content without their knowledge or consent. One book in particular, King and King, upset many parents because of its storyline detailing a homosexual marriage between two princes. The parents in Wilmington took their case to the school board where a vote was taken to restrict access to the book in local elementary schools.

Congressman Jones has introduced H.R. 2295 to empower parents at a local level and shine a light on controversial books before they are purchased. This legislation ensures parents that these books are not available to their children without their knowledge and consent.

H.R. 2295 would establish review boards of five to fifteen parents who would have the opportunity to review potential purchases by the appropriate educational agency and then recommend for or against that purchase. It would create a localized system where parents work with education authorities to determine the appropriate content for the materials their children will have access to at school.

**For additional information or to schedule an interview with Congressman Walter B. Jones please contact Kristen Quigley at (202) 225-3415.**