



From darkness, light.

September 19, 2022

### **In support of Banned Books Week 2022**

Banned Books Week (September 18 - 24, 2022) is an annual event celebrating the freedom to read. Typically held during the last week of September, it spotlights current and historical attempts to censor books. It brings together the entire book community – librarians, booksellers, publishers, journalists, teachers, and readers of all types – in shared support of the freedom to seek and to express ideas, even those some consider unorthodox or unpopular.

Holocaust Museum Houston stands with educators and students against the rising tide of censorship in Texas schools. In recent months, Holocaust literature such as *Maus* and *The Diary of Anne Frank* have been banned in classrooms and libraries across Texas. This is part of a broader trend targeting historical truth, racism, and the LGBTQ community.

Holocaust Museum Houston offers free resources and materials through our E-Books literacy program. Teachers and students can easily access our bilingual digital titles at no cost. To learn more about the E-Books program, please visit: <https://hmh.org/ebooks/>

The history of the Holocaust has taught us what happens when voices are silenced. Free access to information is vital for a democracy to function. It is all our responsibility to stand up for intellectual freedom. If not, Journalist Sidney J. Harris's words ring true, "History repeats itself, but in such a cunning disguise that we never detect the resemblance until the damage is done."

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Barbara J. Herz".

Barbara J. Herz  
Board Chair

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kelly J. Zúñiga".

Kelly J. Zúñiga, Ed.D.  
Chief Executive Officer