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# "Pro Gay Lobby" Violates Free Speech Rights with Threats to Businesses Hosting Petition Drive for Child Safety in Public Library in West Bend, WI

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**Saturday, April 25, 2009**

**"Pro Gay Lobby" Violates Free Speech Rights with Threats to Businesses  
Hosting Petition Drive for Child Safety in Public Library in West Bend, WI**

In West Bend, WI, there is an effort underway to improve child safety in the public library. The [public library itself has reacted by refusing to address the issues](#), thereby leaving children exposed to dangers which the community may otherwise block using legally available means. The [local government has responding by refusing to reappoint library board members responsible for failing to act in the interest of the local citizenry](#). And a petition drive is underway to implement legally available means to protect children in the [West Bend Community Memorial Library](#). See the petition [Protect Youth from Sexually Explicit Materials in the Library](#), and petition drive announcements [here](#), [here](#), [here](#), [here](#), [here](#), [here](#), [here](#), and [here](#). [Hear, hear!](#) The petition drive is set to occur at various businesses in the surrounding area.

Along comes the "pro gay lobby," allegedly, according to one business owner, who is calling the businesses offering space for the petition drives. At least one business has backed out, according to that business owner, but he himself "will not be intimidated by the pro gay lobby":

After reviewing [your site](#), **YOU HAVE MY FULL CONFIDENCE; AND I WILL NOT BE INTIMIDATED BY THE PRO GAY LOBBY TRYING TO PROSELYTIZE CHILDREN!!!!**

....

If my small allowance for "democracy" in my parking lot "stirs the pot" with the intolerant gay lobby, so be it! I do not want my children exposed to this material while innocently looking for random library material!

.... I will be opening ... at 8 AM, 2 hours early, and any "troublemaking" elements interfering with your great exercise of democracy, via petition for redress of grievances, will be asked to leave.

I will gladly sign your petition in the A.M.

Source: "[This BUSINESS OWNER is NOT AFRAID](#)," by **West Bend Citizen Advocate**, *WISSUP - WISCONSIN SPEAKS UP*, 24 April 2009.

If the above is accurate, isn't it sad when those claiming a violation of freedom of speech occurs when children are legally restricted from inappropriate material use their own freedom of speech violations as a means to their ends?

Isn't it wrong when "intolerance," or anything for that matter, is used to suppress free speech?

Isn't it great when people are not intimidated by these kind of tactics?

One has to wonder what is so bad about legal means to keep children from inappropriate material that people have to violate the free speech rights of others to suppress citizens from hearing different viewpoints so as to decide for themselves what's right and what's wrong.

Think about this. Without knowing what an issue is about at all, I would side with those being denied their freedom of speech by a vocal minority using threats and intimidation to shut them up. That in itself indicates to me the intimidators know they are wrong and have no legitimate argument to support what they seek.

Indeed, in this West Bend controversy or anywhere, there is no legitimate argument to support ignoring legal means to protect children from inappropriate material in the public library. None. And refusing to even consider the question is even worse. Forcibly shutting people up may even be criminal. Without knowing it, the efforts to suppress the free speech rights of West Bend and area citizens will only result in increasing support for their efforts to protect children in the public library.

See "[This BUSINESS OWNER is NOT AFRAID](#)," by **West Bend Citizen Advocate**, *WISSUP - WISCONSIN SPEAKS UP*, 24 April 2009.

[ADDED COMMENT 25 APRIL 2009:] Apparently, the opponents of free speech do believe in free inappropriate speech for children: "**Opposers drove through Hobby Lobby parking lot and screamed obscenities at us and the children who were volunteering today. Some of the words were appalling..... (but pretty sure they could be found in many, if not most, of the books we are protesting). No child should be harassed in that manner. No adult should either, for that matter. They flipped us the middle finger.**" See "[Intimidation Tactics Fail on Productive Day for Signature Drive.....](#)," by **West Bend Citizen Advocate**, *WISSUP - WISCONSIN SPEAKS UP*, 25 April 2009. Just see the first comment below for more of this.