

Resolution to Reaffirm ALA's Position on the Freedom to Read

Whereas, ALA will support the work of Unite Against Book Bans, a national campaign to protect the rights of everyone's access to a variety of books, in libraries and elsewhere in its efforts to connect, support and mobilize local advocates to fight book bans in their communities or states;

Whereas, reading is a foundational skill, critical to future learning and to exercising our democratic freedoms;

Whereas, libraries provide access to books that offer teachable moments for readers of all ages and expand our understanding of people with different backgrounds, ideas, and beliefs;

Whereas, books are tools for understanding complex issues;

Whereas, limiting people's access to books does not protect them from life's complex and challenging issues;

Whereas, people deserve to see themselves reflected in a library's collection;

Whereas, librarians are professionals trained to not impose their own thoughts and opinions on which ideas are right, but to make knowledge and ideas available so that people have the freedom to choose what to read;

Whereas, removing and banning books from public libraries or public schools is a slippery slope to government censorship and the erosion of our country's commitment to freedom of expression;

Whereas, a large majority of Americans across the political spectrum oppose book bans; and

Whereas, book bans harm communities; then

RESOLVED, that the American Library Association (ALA), on behalf of its members:

1. Endorses the statement that individuals should be trusted to make their own decisions about what they read and believe.
2. Asserts parents or other individuals should not be making decisions for other parents' or guardians' children about what they read.
3. Reaffirms that it stands united against book bans.
4. Continues to act to protect the rights of all to access a variety of books in schools, in libraries, in bookstores, online, and elsewhere.

Mover: Sara Dallas, Executive Board Member

Second: Larry Neal, Executive Board Member

Alexandra Rivera, Executive Board Member

Endorser: Sara Kelly Johns, ALA Councilor-at-Large