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ALA American Library Association

October 5, 2022

Members of the City Council
District of Columbia
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20004

Dear Chair Mendelson and Council Members:

In November of 2021, our predecessors wrote to express their gratitude for the introduction of B24-0443, the Students' Right to Read Amendment Act of 2021. We echo their gratitude and note the urgency in passing this legislation now.

It is not surprising that the Right to Read Amendment has broad support on the Council, from the school board, from DC families, and from educators across the district. The positive impact of school librarians on student outcomes—in and beyond school—is well-documented and known to this body.

DC students cannot wait any longer. As we approach the end of the current legislative cycle, we commend you for considering this important legislation. On behalf of our members and staff in the District of Columbia, and in the interest of the students in all DC Public Schools, we urge you to pass B24-0443 without delay.

Sincerely,



Lessa Kanani'opua Pelayo-Lozada, President
American Library Association



Katherine M. Lester, President
American Association of School Librarians

cc: The Honorable Muriel Bowser, Mayor
DC Board of Education
Lewis Ferebee, Ed.D., Chancellor, DC Public Schools
Maria Thurder, President, DC Library Association