

**NEBRASKA TAXPAYERS FOR FREEDOM ISSUE PAPER:
WITHDRAW FROM AND DEFUND THE AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION.**

BACKGROUND. The American Library Association (ALA), established in 1876, is a nonprofit organization that promotes legislation and content that supposedly improves libraries in America. It is a national group dedicated to infiltrating library systems through liberal advocacy. The ALA openly promotes [diversity, equity, and inclusion](#), key words of Critical Race Theory, and seeks to apply a social justice framework to ALA strategic directions. It publicly has supported the inclusion of books that many parents find sexually inappropriate for minors. The organization has a leftist approach to public policy, sponsoring an annual Banned Books Week to criticize increasingly successful conservative taxpayer efforts to remove filthy books from library shelves and engaging in advocacy supporting leftist immigration policy. Considered a left-wing organization for many years, its latest choice for president confirms it. The ALA elected Emily Drabinski, a self-avowed Marxist lesbian, who flagrantly publicizes her lifestyle and politics on social media. Therefore, many states and library systems have withdrawn affiliation from the ALA. Conservative congressmen seek to defund it. NE taxpayers must lobby our Capitol Hill delegation to join this effort.

ITS NEW PREZ. The new president of the ALA is Emily Drabinski, an avowed Marxist lesbian. She has a background in critical pedagogy, which contaminates learning and teaching with radical social justice elements. Her prior employment was at the Graduate Center, City U. of New York. She regularly condemns conservatives as loudmouth and armed extremists. Drabinski discussed in a Marxist lesbian tweet, "It's very much who I am and shapes a lot of how I think about social change and making a difference in the world. But of course, I tweeted it into the middle of an extremely fractured society, one where we have the rise of an extremist right that has come for everything that I care



about." According to [The Federalist](#), Drabinski posts openly on her Twitter account support for sexually exposing children, union-led political strife, socialist politicians, and libraries pushing explicit and far-Left material on unwilling taxpayers. Other evidence suggests that Drabinski will actively use her position to push sexually explicit material and other sordid texts specifically directed at children. Her goals ostensibly are encouraging her students and readers to act as critical thinkers. She uses the ruse of diversifying book choices. Having the opportunity to read many authors, especially those with whom one may not agree, is a good way to engage debate with authority as an adult and view other opinions. The problem arises when one uses critical thinking to corrupt

children. Her brand of critical thinking is like living out the plot of Aristophanes's [The Clouds](#). We send our children to libraries to learn to think and speak, and they return home contemptuous for all social morality and authority. Such is not critical thinking but indoctrination. Here is an example from one of her presentations on "queering" in the Library of Congress: She directly attacked the social norm of the nuclear family, saying, "For those of us whose queerness includes the subversion of those kinds of normal family types, this ideological story excludes us, and the ways we form familial connections and how we engage in reproductive labor." In her concluding remarks, she said, "We can equip our students with the capacity to wring what they need out of library structures, and wringing what you need out of systems that exclude you is a necessary life skill for survival and revolution."¹ "The consequences of decades of unchecked climate change, class war, white supremacy, and imperialism have led us here. If we want a world that includes public goods like the library, we must organize our collective power and wield it. The American Library Association offers us a set of tools that can harness our energies and build those capacities." Drabinski delivers speeches that sound more like a political activist than a librarian serving the public. She referred to parents opposing her Marxist agenda as a "pro-censorship minority with a loud, large megaphone" and urged ALA members "to wrench that megaphone from their hands and place it squarely back in ours."

POLITICAL BACKLASH. ALA activities have convinced legislators in several states to demand that their respective library associations withdraw from the ALA. Elected officials in Illinois, Arizona, South Carolina, Pennsylvania, Missouri, and Alabama have advocated withdrawal from the ALA because of Drabinski. Our NE Library Commission fortunately has no direct affiliation with the ALA.

FEDERAL. Sen. Marco Rubio (Fla) along with Sens. Kevin Cramer (N.D.) and Mike Braun (Ind.), are attempting to withhold all federal funding from the ALA after discovering that it encouraged libraries to discriminate against Christian publishers.

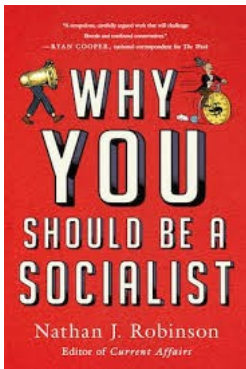
¹ Patriot Post. Emmy Griffin, [American Library Association: Worst of the Worst](#), April 26, 2022.

MONTANA. Montana was the first state to withdraw, its 7-member state library commission voting to leave. The commission stated that its oath of office and resulting duty to the U.S. Constitution forbids association with an organization led by a Marxist. It unanimously voted to immediately withdraw the state library system from the ALA. One member said, “[We] ought not promote, celebrate or support what scripture condemns.” One Montana parent representing the position of many others also spoke in favor of the motion, “I think this is a really good move to send a really clear signal to our national organizations that we are not in agreement with the direction they are taking these organizations.” After public outcry this legislative session, lawmakers amended a bill prohibiting the distribution of obscene material, targeting books like Gender Queer for removal from public and school libraries.²

TEXAS. In April, 2022, the Texas State Board of Education rejected ALA library policies after parents outraged about the left-wing agendas pervasive in their kids' classrooms got involved and won election to the board. In a 10–5 vote, which met the 2/3rds majority threshold, conservative board members overwhelmingly rejected the inclusion of several ALA policies in the state librarian certification requirements. Texas House of Representatives member Brian Harrison also said Texas should withdraw from the ALA, writing, “Texas should fight Marxist ideology, not subsidize it.”

ALABAMA. In Alabama, an effort is underway to remove all state affiliations with the ALA. The Alabama Public Library System (APLS) has requested an opinion from Att.-Gen. Steve Marshall about what authority the APLS has to regulate local libraries and to what extent the APLS can separate from the ALA. APLS board member and Alabama GOP chairman John Wahl led the call for the AG opinion and an investigation into how widespread is the proliferation of sexually explicit books publicized by the ALA in Alabama libraries.³

IDAHO EXIT. Idaho quit the ALA in Feb., 2023, deciding membership was not worth the annual membership dues. Since 2019-20, the state library commission had spent \$6,319 of state tax money and federal funds on ALA services.⁴ These numbers come from Transparent Idaho, the state online checkbook. The Idaho Freedom Caucus, 13 state legislators, called on the state commission to immediately cut ties with the Marxist-led ALA, stating, “ALA's role in corrupting libraries and exposing children to a pernicious ideology can no longer be ignored. Her (Drabinski's) election raises issues about libraries' involvement in exposing children to explicit materials and injecting hard-left politics and sexuality into publicly funded libraries.” Maria Nate, the Idaho director of the Freedom Caucus, found disgusting Drabinski's using queer theory to revise library classification systems, something one source referred to as “queering libraries.” “Her expertise in 'queer theory' aligns with the Marxist's objective, seeking to undermine the West by eradicating the traditional family, natural sexual relationships, distinctions between sexes, and the orderly structures that accompany them,” she argued. “Drabinski's politically exclusionary statements and desire to wage war against those who disagree with her further highlight her divisive approach,” she added, “It's clear Drabinski intends to use her power as President of the ALA to promote deviance and the sexualization of children.”



WYOMING. In a notable move, the Campbell County Library Board in Gillette, Wyoming, decided in October, 2022, to cut all ties with the ALA and its Wyoming branch, aiming to promote a traditionally pro-family mission statement. This was the first time that a library board disassociated itself from the ALA. The board persisted with the vote despite a crowd of rowdy pro-LGBT leftists who heckled the meeting and opposed the decision. Local parents, some from Wyoming Mass Resistance, had petitioned public officials for months to take action and remove the library's sexually explicit books targeting children and teenagers. The Rev. Jonathan Lange has exposed books he and others feel are too extreme in Campbell County, where parents complained about books with obscene sex and LGBTQ themes placed in the children's section of their libraries. “Libraries aren't responsive to their communities anymore,” Lange said, “They're totally beholden to the ALA and its policies and agenda. The ALA obliterated the distinction between adults and minors. They fight for kids of all ages to have access to everything in the library. When parents object, the librarians just invoke the ALA policies and refuse to remove books.”⁵

² Daily Montanan. Nicole Girten, Library Commissioners concerned about national association's new 'Marxist lesbian' president, June 22, 2023.

³ Craig Monger. 1819 News. 'Marxist lesbian' American Library Association president not backing down despite Alabama, other states seeking separation, Aug. 16, 2023.

⁴ Kevin Richert, When did Idaho drop its American Library Association membership — and why? July 21, 2023.

⁵ The New York Post. Dana Kennedy, Librarians go radical as new woke policies take over: experts, Sept. 10, 2022.

MISSISSIPPI. The Mississippi Freedom Caucus along with 4 GOP state senators demanded an end to all state funding for the ALA, citing concerns about Drabinski's promotion of sexually explicit materials to children and her Marxist ideology. This coalition declared, "No decent American should tolerate the promotion of sexually explicit materials to children, yet that is just what the president-elect of the ALA, a self-proclaimed Marxist, has dedicated her career to promoting." Upon her election, Drabinski stated in a tweet she since deleted, "I just cannot believe that a Marxist lesbian who believes that collective power is possible to build and can be wielded for a better world is the president-elect of [@ALALibrary](#). I am so excited for what we will do together. Solidarity!" The caucus and senators called on all state agencies and universities to immediately withdraw, separate, and denounce the ALA and discontinue further payments to the organization. "[W]e are particularly charged with ensuring taxpayer-funded institutions take no part in furthering ethically and morally repugnant agendas inconsistent with the values of the State of Mississippi," the caucus stated, "The State should never utilize taxpayer dollars to support such a radically left organization."

POPULAR BACKLASH. A groundswell of national opposition has targeted the radical direction of the ALA. ALA membership is dwindling as more Americans are beginning to reclaim their libraries from radicals. A former Detroit librarian who has followed the transformation of the ALA from a once widely-respected organization to its current radical state told one periodical how her library had transformed from serving the public to serving perversion. One Georgia conservative group felt obliged to protect the minds, hearts, souls, and bodies of their children, condemning use of taxpayer \$\$ to subvert the traditional family unit. Leaders of more than a dozen conservative organizations called on states to abandon the ALA over its leftward lurch under new leadership. Leaders from these 13 groups addressed a letter to state and federal elected officials, demanding policymakers sever ties with the ALA, which has become an organization that is undermining American constitutional rights and attacking its moral foundation, especially under its current leadership. The letter then signed by executives from the State Freedom Caucus Network, the American Principles Project, and AMAC Action, among others.⁶ Conservative and taxpayer groups across the nation have reacted to the ALA



pushing perversion. In April, [The Daily Signal](#) reported on a list of 13 books the association recommended teens and young adults select to radically express their "freedom to read." The ALA declared these books as the most "challenged" in the current educational environment, blaming anti-LGBT prejudice. All the books on the list feature sexually explicit material, some of which is pornographic. An investigation from the American Accountability Foundation revealed links between the ALA and leftist billionaire financier George Soros.

The ALA also has promoted and defended Drag Queen Story Hour by offering resources to local libraries dealing with community pushback. Its deliberate hostility towards religious Americans and its obsession with the promotion of gender ideology to children are especially disreputable, complain conservative leaders. Because of ALA status as the umbrella organization that controls programming and organizational support for state and local library associations across the country, the coalition called on state leaders, from legislators to attorneys general, to strip the ALA of taxpayer support. The ALA ceaseless promotion of obscene materials targeted at children has violated numerous state and federal laws that protect against the proliferation of harmful materials to minors, say legal experts. Congress has a responsibility through the appropriations process to ensure the ALA receives no federal support.⁷ Traditionalists say that young children should not become exposed to books like Juno Dawson's "This Book is Gay," "[Genderqueer](#)," and "Lawn Boy," which they say depict graphic illustrations of gay sex and freely promoted to youths at public libraries. The ALA is now packing public libraries and YouTube channels with pornographic publications geared toward sexualizing even the youngest children. Library watchdog Dan Kleinman, who has hosted the blog [SafeLibraries](#), is vocal about the ALA plans to radically transform public libraries, stating, "More states are waking up because Marxism within ALA is becoming more obvious, and Americans oppose Marxism once it becomes obvious to them. Many know ALA is now led by a Marxist. But more is coming out, and that's why more states are waking up and dropping out."⁸ Klein has documented the alarming radicalization of American libraries, including readily available porn in library computers. A newspaper reported that parents at Manhattan's classy Columbia Grammar & Preparatory School appeared outraged at the elementary school librarian, suspended from Twitter for tweeting, "Burn White Straight Male Librarianship to the Ground."

⁶ The Federalist. Tristan Justice, [Leaders Of 13 Conservative Groups Demand States Abandon American Library Association](#), Aug. 3, 2023.

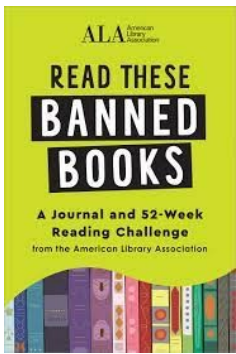
⁷ Ibid.

⁸ Dan Kleinman, [STATES CUTTING TIES WITH RADICALIZED AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION](#), undated.

ALA DEFENDERS. One ALA rally featured Ibram Kendi, who argued that the “only remedy to past discrimination is present discrimination. The only remedy to present discrimination is future discrimination.”⁹ Kendi has written several books on CRT theory, including How to Be an Antiracist and Antiracist Baby, a children’s picture book designed to teach infants and children critical race theory. Former Pres. Obama called ALA criticism profoundly misguided. He sent a thank you note to the dedicated and hardworking ALA librarians of America. “Referring to the many parents who oppose shelves full of LGBT materials targeting their children, the former president wrote, “[Y]ou’re attacked by people who either cannot or will not understand the vital — and uniquely American — role you play in the life of our nation.” Other supporters say they simply want their facilities to become more diverse and inclusive with gender and race ideology. The ALA first began obtaining major funding in the late 1990s from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and George Soros’ Open Society among other leftwing organizations. At its most recent conference, ALA panels of supporters included subjects such as “Addressing Critical Race Theory Challenges in Your Library” and “Inspiring the Next Generation to Champion Social Justice through Speech and Debate.”

ALA RESPONSE. The ALA is distributing \$1 million to support and expand efforts to counter its critics, giving dollars to libraries and leftist community groups under the title Solidarity Giving. The additional staff will expand efforts to mobilize and provide direction to grass roots organizations to ensure a coordinated and effective response to conservative taxpaying critics and groups. The contribution also will expand the Lawyers for Libraries and Law for Librarians programs, which include training to give both legal and library professionals the expertise necessary to deflect censorship challenges and provide a network of lawyers who are available to work with libraries and library workers facing taxpayer challenges. Also, tracking efforts and a toolkit with instructions for responding to such challenges. A portion of the funding also will fund a National Summit in Washington D.C., which will assemble leftwing leaders of national organizations, lawyers, legislators, and community activists closely invested in defending the ALA.¹⁰

ALA ACTIVITIES. The ALA sponsors an annual Banned Books Week, listing top 11 books challenged by outraged citizens seeking their removal from libraries or schools. Books with themes or characters pertaining to LGBT and Black Lives Matter issues targeted at children and young adults seemed the most challenged in 2018. One book on the list was the children’s book A Day in the Life of Marlon Bundo by Jill Twiss, featuring a same-sex relationship between 2 rabbits.



The ALA was among early organizations that passed a resolution endorsing same-sex marriage in 2005. Shortly after, it established a Rainbow List to provide young people with books that promote the gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, and queer/questioning experience. The ALA’s Stonewall Book Award honors the best LGBT-themed book every year. It established the “Social Responsibility Roundtable” and the “Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Roundtable.”¹¹ Banned Books Week seeks to celebrate the freedom to read and emphasize the value of free and open access to information. The ALA, however, uses this tactic to veer off into shrill panic about the supposed evil conservative forces in America that want to censor reading material and diminish personal right to read what one pleases. The problem with the ALA campaign is that it confuses banning and censorship of books with moral judgment. In reality, the books on the ALA top 11 list now widely available in thousands of public and school libraries around the country, also readily available for purchase online and through bookstores. That the controversial books are not included

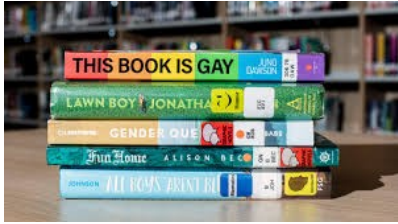
in every library collection is not an indication that sinister forces have colluded to destroy freedom to read. The books on challenged lists are alarming typically because reasonable parents or other local patrons show concern with school or public library holdings that contain sexually explicit content, profanity, or glorification of illegal drug use. The ALA believes that such critics have no right to question the acquisition decisions of libraries. But librarians should not smugly assume they have the only say about what constitutes community standards. Taxpayer dollars pay for books acquired by public or school libraries. Decisions on which books become purchased for inclusion in a library or school curriculum base on multiple budgetary, cultural, and community standards. Personal judgments by librarians and school administrators necessarily factor in, but challenging those judgments is also inherent in the 1st Amendment. The ALA should welcome public dialogue about what materials get placed on tax-funded shelves to assure that libraries are sensitive to the priorities and morals of a locale. Every bit of published material need not sit in every library. Perverts with their own money can buy those materials deemed not suitable by the decisions of librarians, school boards, or public library oversight boards. The ALA heavily markets Banned Books Week with local displays and events and encourages

⁹ National Review. Ari Blaff, American Library Association Leader Surprised by Pushback after Publicly Identifying as ‘Marxist’, Aug. 7, 2023.

¹⁰ American Library Association to Distribute \$1 Million to Support Fight Against Censorship, June 22, 2023.

¹¹ Influence Watch. Undated.

people to post YouTube videos of themselves reading banned books. There is a “Rebel Reader Twitter Tournament,” in which people can win prizes for tweeting photos of themselves with a banned book. One of the ALA slogans for signage to promote the week is “Words have power. Read a banned book.” Indeed, words do have power. The ALA should rename Banned Books Week Dirty Books Week to remove the misguided notion that selection is banning. Instead, the ALA should focus on the real need for clarity in understanding that a book absent from a library shelf does not constitute banning.¹² Libraries, for decades the ultimate safe spaces, have become a battleground in the ongoing culture wars, with battles over banned books, drag queen story hours, and free access to porn raging all over the country. The average person



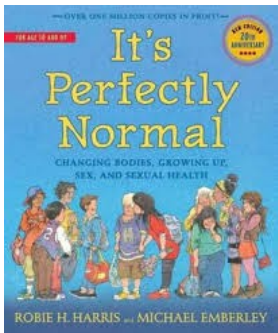
has no idea of this trend, but ALA librarians have targeted children in recent years to try to turn them into political activists. Drag Queen Story Hour, launched in San Francisco in 2015, has become a mainstay for children at libraries all over the U.S. and the UK. Drag queens in full regalia perform for children as young as 2 and 3. [Two](#) registered sex offenders were among the drag queens performing at a Houston public library in 2019, where the program is still ongoing. Libraries seek accreditation from the ALA, so they follow the leftist line, enacting their policies across the board. ALA librarians represent some of the most dangerous people in society. They are very well-organized and communicate very well. So much money dumped into the ALA by organizations with radical agendas. Robert Judge, a retired science teacher in Lafayette, La., volunteered to serve on the local library board and elected president last fall. Because of his conservative Christian beliefs and desire to ban some gay-themed children’s books from the library, he found himself harassed by librarians who call him a bigot or religious extremist. “The ALA indoctrinates people getting their library degrees and they are pushing books in libraries that should just not be accessible to children,” Judge related, “We don’t let children drink or drive or smoke or get married because they don’t have the cognitive abilities to handle all that yet. It’s the same with some of these books they are forcing on them. If protecting the innocence of children and the rights of parents to rear their children as they see fit makes me an extremist, then yes, I am an extremist.”

ALA HYPOCRISY. In 2008, the Fairfax County, VA. school district refused to accept more than 100 books donated by conservative Christian students and parents belonging to Focus on the Family. One parent asked the ALA to issue a statement during Banned Books Week urging the Fairfax County school libraries to carry these books. But the ALA refused to help. In July, 2009, the ALA invited critic of Islam Robert Spencer to participate on an ALA panel titled “Perspectives on Islam: Beyond the Stereotyping.” However, the association canceled the forum after a complaint by the Chicago chapter of the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR). In 2018, the ALA removed author Laura Ingalls Wilder’s name from an award after allegations that her *Little House on the Prairie* books were anti-Native American and anti-African American.¹³ The ALA has received millions of dollars in taxpayer funds, including for the promotion of community engagement activities at libraries. However, in June, 2023, the ALA provided guidance on how to prohibit story hours held by Brave Books, a Christian children’s book publisher, from library events. Meanwhile, the ALA has continued to promote inappropriate Drag Queen Story Hours that expose minors to sexual topics. Sen. Marco Rubio (FL) and colleagues sent a letter to Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) Director Crosby Kemper demanding an investigation into the ALA use of taxpayer dollars to silence Brave Books, a definite violation of the 1st Amendment, while promoting Drag Queen Story Hours at public libraries. As a recipient of federal funds, the ALA cannot use taxpayer dollars to violate the 1st Amendment. However, the ALA ignored this prohibition for the sole purpose of silencing Brave Books while simultaneously advocating for Drag Queen Story Hour. Rubio declared, “While disagreements pertaining to ‘Drag Queen Story Hour’ in public libraries will assuredly continue, Brave Books deserves the same opportunity to host and organize events in public libraries as other groups, including those that the ALA has taken an aggressive role promoting.” The ALA, as part of its Library 2023 Worldwide Virtual Conference, gave guidance on how to deny permission for individuals to assemble in public libraries to hold events organized by religious and conservative publishers. Specifically, the ALA hindered the ability of Brave Books to access public libraries to host events with parents and children to teach kids about “faith, hope, and love,” and “pray[ing], sing[ing], and read[ing] Brave Books and other books of virtue.” The ALA falsely claims that Brave Books seeks to censor LGBTQIA materials or disparage or silence LGBTQIA library users and exploit the open nature of the library to advance its agenda. To the contrary, the ALA is advancing a political agenda, not Brave Books. The ALA is doing so while receiving federal funds and actively promoting hotly-contested controversial events in public libraries, including Drag Queen Story Hours, events aimed at having scantily and/or exotically-clothed adults read to children with the goal of introducing them to sexualized topics. The ALA has an entire program dedicated to Drag Queen Story Hour. Given the ALA blatant acts of discrimination against Brave Books, Rubio and others urged the IMLS to investigate this matter. Further, they demanded the halt of all

¹² The Hill. Jeffrey McCaul, [The American Library Association’s misguided war against ‘banned books](#), 9-29-2017.

¹³ Influence Watch. Undated.

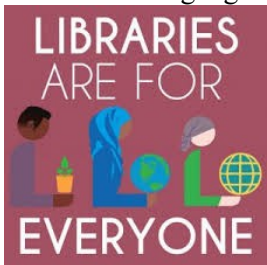
current and future funds to the ALA until such an investigation into the ALA conduct concluded.¹⁴ First Liberty also sent a letter to the Institute of Museum and Library Services on behalf of its clients, Brave Books and Christian actor and author Kirk Cameron. It called for an investigation of religious discrimination by the ALA, after its leader encouraged librarians to make public library meeting rooms unavailable for a Brave Books Story Hour event. One ALA official targeted their clients based on their religious beliefs and strongly criticized them for encouraging local community members to use libraries to read books with a religious perspective. She also encouraged public libraries nationwide to construct policies and procedures that will help them keep control of libraries. She laughably holds the Orwellian ALA title Director of the Office for Intellectual Freedom. Speaking to those gathered for the Library 2023 Worldwide Virtual Conference, she falsely suggested that the aim of First Liberty clients is to censor LGBTQIA materials or disparage or silence LGBTQIA library users. She brashly suggested that the First Liberty client “See You at the Library” campaign is somehow an endeavor to take over libraries. Instead of ensuring that our libraries remain open to a diversity of viewpoints and equal treatment of all groups, the ALA is conspiring to deny access to thousands of citizens based upon open intolerance of their religious beliefs, speech, and expression. This is blatantly unconstitutional and violates the ALA Library Bill of Rights,



which states that a personal right to use a library should not become denied or abridged because of views, including religious or political views. As federal grant recipients, the ALA may not utilize taxpayer funds to openly violate the 1st Amendment to the U.S. Constitution and federal regulations. “While claiming to promote equality and diversity, the ALA is conspiring to deny access to thousands of citizens based upon open intolerance of their religious beliefs,” said Jeremy Dys, Senior Counsel for First liberty. Federal taxpayers should not have to fund such bigotry and intolerance. Federal law expressly prohibits discrimination on the basis of religion. Public libraries and other government agencies must treat religious and taxpaying individuals and organizations the same as everyone else, including equal access to public spaces.¹⁵

THE COURT CASE. In *U.S. v American Library Association*, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled 6-3 that the Children’s Internet Protection Act (CIPA), which requires public schools and libraries that receive federal funds or discounts to install Internet-filtering software that blocks porn, did not violate the 1st Amendment freedom of speech clause. This case stemmed from congressional attempts to shield kids from obscene or harmful online content. After the CIPA became law in 2000, schools and libraries under this statute then required to implement a tech protection measure for computers with Internet access that protects against access through such computers any obscenity, kiddie porn, or other content deemed harmful to minors. The ALA sued. In 2003, lawyers argued the case before the Supreme Court. In its opinion, the court ruled that Internet access in public libraries is not a traditional public forum (such as government-owned sidewalks and parks) or a designated forum (a nontraditional public forum opened for public expression). Thus, public-forum principles did not apply. The court noted that librarians could unblock filtered material or disable Internet-filtering software for adults who requested them to do so. In addition, the court stated that Congress has wide latitude to attach conditions to federal funding in order to advance its policy objectives, and the court further ruled that the government had a compelling interest in protecting children from inappropriate material. The Supreme Court therefore affirmed that the CIPA was constitutional.

CHALLENGING THE ALA. Conservative actor and writer Kirk Cameron, with the First Liberty Institute, a non-profit conservative legal group in Texas, is challenging the ALA for his popular children’s books. He is trying to hold the ALA accountable for its discrimination against him and his religious message, after the ALA excluded his and other religious books in flagrant discrimination. The ALA is conspiring to deny access to thousands of citizens based upon intolerance of their religious beliefs. Such action by a public library system is blatantly unconstitutional. Federal taxpayers should not have to fund such bigotry and intolerance. Usually, community members and others can reserve rooms at local libraries for events, including book readings. However, Cameron told Fox News Digital of his shock to see on video ALA staff, funded by its \$250 million budget, use our taxpayer dollars to train librarians to discriminate against religious families and secretly sabotage



wholesome, patriotic community gatherings like ‘See You At The Library.’ The ALA instructs local libraries how to keep this Brave Books story hour out of their spaces. "You can limit access to meeting rooms to persons eligible to hold a library card in your community. You could make a priority for library-sponsored programs," advised one ALA director.

¹⁴ Press release from Sen. Marco Rubio, July 28, 2023.
¹⁵ FIRST LIBERTY. [First Liberty Requests Investigation After American Library Association Calls for Ban of Kirk Cameron Books](#), July 7, 2023.

Beginning in December, 2022, Cameron has traveled to libraries across the country, conducting a story hour tour during which he reads from his books As You Grow and Pride Comes Before the Fall. First Liberty wrote in its letter to the Institute of Museum and Library Services, "On behalf of our clients Brave Books and Kirk Cameron, I write to request that the Institute of Museum and Library Services open an investigation into whether the American Library Association ('ALA') has violated federal law protecting religious liberty and failed to comply with the assurances of nondiscrimination required as a federal grant recipient. Despite the effort of our clients to encourage thousands of Americans to visit America's public libraries, the ALA strongly criticized our clients' encouraging local community members to use libraries to read books. More concerning, ALA's director for its Office for Intellectual Freedom, Deborah Caldwell-Stone, appears to base the ALA's opposition to our clients upon their religious beliefs."¹⁶

POLITICAL CORRECTNESS. A division of the American Library Association voted unanimously to strip Laura Ingalls Wilder's name from a major children's literature award because of alleged prejudice shown by the author against Native Americans and Blacks. The Association for Library Service to Children (ALSC) boasts that the Laura Ingalls Wilder Award will now become the Children's Literature Legacy Award. Wilder, who wrote the *Little House* book series, was the first recipient of the award, established in 1954 and intended to honor books published in the U.S. that have had an enormous impact on children's literature. The series based on Wilder's personal life and related the story of the Ingalls family as it moved around the Great Plains in the 19th Century. Many of the *Little House* books became widely read, but liberal critics claimed her work included many stereotypical depictions of Native Americans and Blacks. "The decision was made in consideration of the fact that Wilder's legacy, as represented by her body of work, includes expressions of stereotypical attitudes inconsistent with ALSC's core values of inclusiveness, integrity and respect, and responsiveness," the ALSC stated. The Laura Ingalls Wilder Legacy and Research Association released a statement defending Wilder's work, saying that though her writing included "the perspectives of racism that were representative of her time and place, it also made positive contributions to children's literature. We believe it is not beneficial to the body of literature to sweep away her name as though the perspectives in her books never existed. Those perspectives are teaching moments to show generations to come how the past was and how we, as a society, must move forward with a more inclusive and diverse perspective."¹⁷

AN ALTERNATIVE. The World Library Association (WLA) appears an alternative to the ALA. It provides safe environments for librarians, assembles valuable reading materials for children, and maintains a public space that promotes information literacy and political neutrality. The group also has pledged resources to help support parents in legal battles for defending their children in school libraries, including financial support and active volunteer assistance. Policies in place that are politically neutral and that address only time, place, and manner of meetings. There is no predetermination if someone or a group meets the definition of "hate group," as that only defies political neutrality. The World Library Association's slogan is "Your Library, Your Way." "We will give you information on how you can do things in your library that satisfy the needs of your community and your children, and your librarians that work there, and not the needs of people from Chicago (ALA) who want to prescribe for you how your library is to be run," says executive director Dan Kleinman. Membership is free. Encourage your local library to join at <https://worldlibraryassociation.org>.

TAKE ACTION NOW. When Benjamin Franklin instituted the first public library system in the U.S., his goal was to offer equal access to knowledge for citizens of all backgrounds. Books then were too expensive for most Americans to purchase. He said, "These Libraries have improved the general Conversation of Americans, made the common



Tradesmen and Farmers as intelligent as most Gentlemen from other Countries, and perhaps have contributed in some Degree to the Stand so generally made throughout the Colonies in Defense of their Privileges." Franklin would feel shame that the ALA has desecrated his gift to our nation. The nuclear family dominates in the storytelling language of books. But the pushing of "queerness" and "revolution" in the ALA and through its preferred books is indoctrination. It is a flagrant attempt to make deviancy the norm. It exposes vulnerable, impressionable children to the worst sort of explicit sexual deviancy. This activity is not what Franklin envisioned. It is the same kind of indoctrination being pushed in schools and in sports. It has no tolerance for traditional or competing learning, ideas, or criticism and lacks the solid backing of truth. It is a path to


our cultural destruction. Using the information above, first, contact NE Library Commission members to request that it

¹⁶ Fox News. Maureen Mackey. Kirk Cameron vows to hold American Library Association accountable for 'religious discrimination', July 6, 2023.

¹⁷ Kat Chow, NPR. Little House on the Controversy: Laura Ingalls Wilder's Name Removed from Book Award, June 25, 2018.

completely disaffiliate with the ALA. Urge your state senator to press the commission to withdraw and to pass a resolution condemning ALA conduct. The NE Library Association, a chapter of the ALA, mirrors ALA programming. However, only private contributions and memberships fund this group. Taxpayers can only pressure its directors to disaffiliate. Contact your congressional delegation to pass legislation to defund the ALA. Press your local library to disaffiliate from the ALA. Email netaxpayers@gmail.com for contact information for all the above officials. Subversion by the ALA is only one example of contamination of our institutions by the Left, using our tax dollars to destroy patriotism and decency in our ongoing Cultural Wars.

Research, documentation, and analysis for this issue paper done by **Nebraska Taxpayers for Freedom**. This material copyrighted by Nebraska Taxpayers for Freedom, with express prior permission granted for its use by other groups in the *NE Conservative Coalition Network*. 8-23. C



**ALA WELCOMES WHITE
HOUSE ACTIONS TO
ADDRESS BOOK BANS**

"We are heartened by the Biden-Harris Administration's leadership to address the alarming rise in book bans and other attacks on LGBTQIA+ Americans that aim to stigmatize and erase the voices of the LGBTQIA+ community."

Lessa Kanani'opua Pelayo-Lozada
American Library Association President

ALA American Library Association