

Date: \_\_\_\_\_, 2024

Vanessa Carr  
Executive Secretary  
Alabama Public Library Service  
6030 Monticello Drive  
Montgomery, Alabama 36117

Dear Ms. Carr,

Yes, we want a policy change. While we appreciate Governor Ivey addressing the issue of inappropriate content for children in our public libraries the suggested changes fall short of protecting children from exposure to harmful content in our public libraries.

Thank you for the opportunity to address the changes being proposed to Rule 520-2-2-.03 Library Establishment, Policy and Service Requirements. Governor Ivey was very astute to establish state aid funding to each individual library contingent upon them making policy changes to protect the children of Alabama.

There are many examples of sexually explicit material currently in our Alabama Public Libraries. I find it very disturbing that this type of material is on the shelves in our children’s and young adult sections. It is necessary for our libraries to consider age when purchasing, promoting and displaying material in our libraries, anywhere it can be accessed or viewed by children under the age of eighteen, without the supervision of a parent. Our children’s minds and development should be of the utmost importance to our librarians.

The changes to the Administrative Code should also include:

- Material selection policies which specify materials for minors shall not contain content which includes, but not limited to, obscenity, sexual conduct, sexual intercourse, sexual orientation, gender identity/ideology, gender discordance, bestiality, or breast and genital nudity. Age-appropriate materials concerning biology, human anatomy or religion shall be exempt from this rule.
- Necessary safeguards shall be implemented to protect and prevent the exposure of minors to harmful content. An example of this shall be a minor’s library card which is restricted and does not allow a minor to check out adult material.
- Removing a book from a local library which is deemed to be harmful or does not meet community standards is not “banning” but should be considered a part of the normal weeding process.
- No expenditure of public funds to the ALA or ALLA, for memberships, training, conventions, webinars or books published by the ALA that promote ideas that do not reflect community standards. An organization that promotes teaching librarians how to “queer the library”, or “how to have a radical catalogue” has no place in the teaching of Alabama librarians. Since the ALA has essentially become an activist organization with an obvious agenda, it should no longer be considered a trusted source for Alabama librarians when choosing material to be purchased and shelved in our libraries.
- Age shall be taken into account when recommending, displaying, or otherwise actively promoting library materials for children or youth. This does not constitute a denial of service on the basis of age.

The above recommendations to the Administrative Code will help parents as they strive to protect their children from exposure to harmful content. Our libraries need to prioritize the literacy and enrichment of our children and youth. They do not need to be a “a site for socialist organizing” as quoted by Emily Drabinski, the President of the ALA for 2023.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Respectfully,

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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Signature