



MEMO

To: MSL Commissioners
From: Jennie Stapp, State Librarian
Subject: American Library Association Membership Public Comment
Date: July 10, 2023

From: Susan Gregory <SGregory@BOZEMAN.NET>
Sent: Thursday, July 6, 2023 12:16 PM
To: Stapp, Jennie <JStapp2@mt.gov>
Cc: Kit Stephenson <kstephenson@bozeman.net>; MBeckstrom@lclibrary.org
<MBeckstrom@lclibrary.org>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] ALA membership for State Library

Hi, Jennie,

I would like to share some thoughts on the proposal by the Montana State Library to withdraw its membership in the American Library Association.

I have spent my entire working and professional life in libraries. I've worked in the University of Oklahoma Library System, a corporate library for an architectural & engineering Fortune 500 company, a five-county public library system in Oklahoma, a three-county public library system in Oklahoma and I now have the privilege of serving in my 12th year as the Bozeman Public Library Director. In each phase of my professional career, the American Library Association (ALA) has been a constant, invaluable source of continuing education opportunities and information on how to provide the best possible library service to each community and its citizens. It's an amazingly effective association for providing information on professional growth and current employment opportunities all over the country, in libraries of all kinds. The annual conferences are great opportunities to not only meet and network with colleagues from all over the world but to learn about the latest programs and technology that will benefit our home libraries and communities.

The position of ALA President is only one year. The President does serve as a speaker for the Association. However, he or she is constrained by the ALA Executive Board and ALA Governing Council decisions and actions. I have served four separate, three-year terms as an elected ALA Councilor: one as the Montana Library Association Chapter Councilor and three terms as a nationally-elected Councilor-at-large. The ALA President chairs the four ALA Council meetings but the more than 100 Councilors discuss issues, make decisions and vote their respective preference on questions and proposed policies.

We don't leave the United States because we don't like or agree with whomever the sitting President of the United States is. We are still loyal Americans despite not agreeing with the President at times. I hope that the Montana State Library Commission will understand the critical importance of remaining in



our professional association so that we know what is happening in the world, our country and neighboring states to improve public libraries. One of the Bozeman Public Library Trustees who hired me told me my first week on the job, "We want you to stay involved with your ALA membership and conference attendance. People in Bozeman want to know what is happening outside of Montana and in our nation with libraries and library services." I hope that this is the case for the Montana State Library Commission, as well.

Thank you.

Susan F. Gregory

Susan F. Gregory
Director
Bozeman Public Library
Bozeman, MT 59715
sgregory@bozeman.net
(406) 582-2401

Members of the Montana State Library Commission

I have worked with E-Rate, which is a federal discount program offering telecommunications and Internet discounts to libraries, since my hiring at Montana State Library 24 years ago. The E-Rate process is time consuming and intimidating especially for small libraries. That is why many of our public libraries choose not to participate. Yet for many it is the difference between being able to offer high speed broadband at the national level or the service of 20 years ago. There is a great deal of participation from schools, however. This is true throughout the country. As such, it's difficult for public libraries and their advocates to have much of a say in the program. I posit, if it weren't for ALA and the Public Policy and Advocacy Office (PPA), we would have even less of a voice.

My work with ALA PPA staff has been invaluable during my tenure as State E-Rate Coordinator. They run email lists where State Coordinators can share questions and answers. They've handled grants from the Gates Foundation and Institute for Museum and Library Services (IMLS) whereby they were able to hire consultants for national in person training sessions as well as providing support on the email list. They've organized monthly calls with Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) so coordinators could ask questions directly of USAC staff and administrators. They've organized and supported the E-Rate Task Force of which I've been a member for the last 10 years. This has enabled me to speak out for the needs of small libraries in simplification of the E-Rate program. ALA also supports the E-Rate Task Force in planning and providing programming at the ALA and Schools Health and Libraries Broadband



Coalition (SHLB) annual conferences. This enables us to share broadband successes and failures not only with other libraries but with other anchor institutions.

As ALA PPA staff are based in and around Washington, DC, they advocate for libraries with Congress and the FCC, in particular, in areas pertaining to broadband. Their staff and fellows read and prepare comments to Notices of Proposed Rule Making (NPRMs). This gives state coordinators, like myself, a good starting point when we are either preparing our own comments or the opportunity to insert our own concerns into those composed by ALA. You'll see Montana libraries mentioned in recent ALA comments to a Tribal Library NPRM. I can't tell you how useful it is to have professionals able to read and summarize these long and complicated documents and provide summaries to begin discussion of areas for comment and improvement that will help our small libraries. At the recent annual conference, FCC Chair Rosenworcel was in attendance. ALA PPA staff arranged for her to have lunch with the E-Rate Task Force members who were in attendance. They would certainly not have had this access were it not for ALA PPA.

E-Rate is only a small part of my job. With the backing of ALA PPA and the various services they provide to myself and other state coordinators, I feel like I can provide at least some support. Without it, I fear our libraries would be forced to make do on their own.

Would the E-Rate State Coordinators email list still be available to us as a state if we were not institutional members? Yes, they don't ask for membership to join. You don't have to be a personal member either. But having an office and staff in Washington, DC costs money. If every personal or institutional member who took issue with the politics of an elected ALA officer decided to pull out, they would not be able to afford to keep this and other vital services. And, I would argue, libraries would lose even more of their voice at the national level.

Sincerely,

Suzanne Reymer

From: Richard Krumm <rick@shevetgroup.com>

Sent: Sunday, July 9, 2023 5:16 AM

To: Stapp, Jennie <JStapp2@mt.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Good for you for rejecting Marxist philosophies!!!

Marxism has no place in our libraries!!

State Law Library
of Montana



Justice Building • 215 North Sanders
PO Box 203004 • Helena, MT 59620-3004
Phone (406) 444-3660 • Fax (406) 444-3603
www.lawlibrary.mt.gov

July 3, 2023

Montana State Library Commission
c/o Montana State Library
PO Box 201800
Helena, Montana 59620
Submitted Electronically and via Interoffice Mail

Re: Montana State Library Commission
Meeting on July 11, 2023
American Library Association Membership

Dear Montana State Library Commission,

This letter is a response to the call for written comments on the upcoming Montana State Library (MSL) Commission meeting on July 11, 2023, regarding organizational membership in the American Library Association (ALA). I have reviewed the documents associated with this meeting: the agenda, the ALA membership invoice, and the memorandum from Jenny Stapp to the MSL Commissioners dated June 27, 2023. From the information provided, I cannot determine any drawbacks to continuing the MSL's membership in the ALA, a premier advocacy and support organization for libraries across the country. The ALA works tirelessly to advance our profession through its programming, training, leadership, and shared resources.

Based on the documentation provided about this decision, I would support the MSL's continued organizational membership in the ALA. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully submitted,



Franklin L. Runge
State Law Librarian for Montana



Dear Montana State Library Commission,

I am writing in support of the Montana State Library's continued membership in the American Library Association.

Formed in 1879, the American Library Association has had well over one hundred presidents, each serving a one-year term. A Council of 186 members approves ALA policies. MSL has been an ALA member since 1960.

ALA's policies and positions are primarily focused on issues related to libraries, access to information, and intellectual freedom, rather than being explicitly aligned with specific political ideologies.

ALA's emphasis on intellectual freedom and privacy rights reflects a commitment to individual liberties and limited government interference. ALA's stance on issues like privacy protection and advocacy for education aligns with Montana State history and values, which prioritizes personal freedom and autonomy.

ALA's primary goal is to ensure that libraries remain open, inclusive spaces that provide access to information and protect intellectual freedom for all individuals, regardless of their political beliefs.

ALA advocates for policies, programs and federal funding for library programs that benefit Montana, including:

- Grants to Montana to invest in library services that are priorities for Montanans – like materials for print specifically for people with disabilities and seniors; resource sharing for homeschoolers; training and lifelong learning for adults.
- Funding for broadband and connected devices for library users.
- Emergency funding for an array of library services throughout the pandemic, when libraries filled community needs (distributing COVID tests, assistance filing for unemployment and registering for stimulus checks, curbside checkout, etc.)

ALA resources, professional development opportunities and a community of practice deliver services and opportunities to Montana students/library users. Examples include:

- Many library creative programs are a result of ALA webinars and news stories in American Libraries magazine and other ALA communications products.
- An important part of any association is the larger community of practice that inspires innovation, encourages professional growth, and improves staff morale. The Montana library community values connecting with other library professionals in person at ALA conferences and in virtual events.

Sincerely,

Slaven Lee

Slaven Lee
Executive Director
Missoula Public Library
slavenl@missoulapubliclibrary.org



From: Richard Marx <richard.marx.chicagoguy@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 6, 2023 12:25 PM
To: Lighthiser, Genevieve
Cc: Stapp, Jennie
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Support the motion to leave ALA

I have been involved in Montana libraries for close to a quarter century. I cannot however disclose my identity due to fear of retribution.

I have watched my profession go from honorable to shameful. Libraries all over the country and within Montana have shifted from serving communities to serving power. I am in full awareness that the reason for this shift aligns with the new ALA president's expertise in critical pedagogy.

I noticed this change in society at large but did not begin to gain understanding until I saw the change in my co-workers who had become aggressive to the point of supporting violent acts (I have evidence of this I am not willing to share in an email). Since this change I have become fluent in critical pedagogy in order to manage and adapt to the rapidly deteriorating conditions in my workplace and surroundings.

In my studies I have learned that critical pedagogy is hatred shielded within compassion. Be it Ibram X. Kendi's declaration of "The only remedy to racist discrimination is antiracist discrimination. The only remedy to past discrimination is present discrimination. The only remedy to present discrimination is future discrimination". Herbert Marcuse's belief that opposing beliefs of critical pedagogy should be oppressed (Repressive Tolerance) and his interest in pederasty (From Eros and Civilization: "The road to 'higher culture' leads through the true love of boys"). Paulo Friere's literal religious conversion (breach of the establishment clause) to a "critical consciousness" that enables a person to see through the eyes of the oppressed (Pedagogy of the Oppressed). Queer Theory and its desire to destroy all things "normative" including the safety and security of children.

Which leads into the vile connection libraries have with what are called drag queens yet I am old enough and travelled enough to know these are not the drag queens of even 25 years ago.

I will offer direct quotes from the paper outlining Drag Queen Story Hour.

From: "Drag Pedagogy: The playful practice of queer imagination in early childhood. (Keenan, Lil Miss Hot Mess 2020)

"So, bring your notes and put on those glasses, everybody, because this requires reading on multiple levels."

I start with that quote to emphasize that I am indeed reading on multiple levels. Levels that expose depravity.

“The themes within drag pedagogy, applicable beyond the context of drag itself, move away from vocabulary lessons and the token inclusion of LGBT heroes to begin to engage deeper understandings of queer cultures and envision new modes of being together.”

Having read Marcuse’s “Eros and Civilization” it’s quite clear these new modes of being together include opening possibilities for sexual access to children. Multiple levels, remember?

“By encouraging students to explore the boundaries of acceptability...”

Libraries are encouraging children to engage in unacceptable behavior with grown men as drag queens. Nothing I would have envisioned when I started in libraries.

“Drag loves to turn rejection into desire”

Desiring children.

“...drag-seeks to embrace failure and shame”

“Similarly, many campy drag aesthetics like parody and exaggeration destigmatize shame by placing the joke on society, rather than individuals, further revealing to kids that ideas of appropriateness are subject to change”

In Gender and Queer Theory “childhood innocence” is considered a social construct. Children are “sexual beings” with desires.

“It is undeniable that DQSH participated in many of those tropes of empathy, from the marketing language the programme uses to its selection of books. Much of this is strategically done in order to justify its educational value”.

Opposite of the claims of many librarians DQSH isn’t about creating empathy or offering education.

“In turn, drag queen teachers have much to learn from interactions with children: many queens reflect that DQSH allows them to build relationships with young people that otherwise would not be possible”.

The sirens should be screaming right now.

“However, following Muñoz (2009), we suggest that DQSH off a queer relationality with children that breaks from the reproductive futurity of the normative classroom and nuclear family.”

Queer futurity, as opposed to reproductive futurity, is an end to all heteronormative reproduction.

“It may be that DQSH is “family friendly”, in the sense that it is accessible and inviting to families with children, but it is less a sanitizing force than it is a preparatory introduction to alternate modes of



kinship. Here, DQSH is “family friendly” in the sense of “family” as an old-school queer code to identify and connect with other queers on the street”.

Essentially, the children are bait.

“Of course, drag queens are also workers who need to make money-now-and DQSH provides a new avenue for income”.

“...we’re leaving a trail of glitter that won’t ever come out of the carpet”.

Is this the future of American libraries? Feeding children to predators and giving them money for the effort? I have witnessed this once honorable profession descend into ruin. I implore the State Commission and the State Library to sever ties with the Marxist ALA that is hellbent on destabilizing and abusing children in the hopes our local libraries follow their lead.

Sincerely,

A Montana librarian in fear of violent, aggressive coworkers further radicalized by the ALA who are targeting children to deliver them to predators

Members of the Montana State Library Commission:

My name is Matt Beckstrom, and I am the elected Montana chapter representative to the American Library Association by the Montana Library Association, a member of the Montana Library Association board, and a Librarian for over 20 years in Montana.

For over 60 years, the Montana State Library has been a member of the American Library Association. All libraries in the State benefit from this partnership including public, academic, school, and special libraries. The ALA provides access to resources, grants, federal assistance, national advocacy for funding, and support. The ALA also provides the most significant policy lobbying office in Washington D.C. During the pandemic, the ALA provided support and assistance to many libraries around the nation. As libraries and librarians, we need this partnership to continue through the State Library.

The current ALA president, Emily Drabinski made a comment on Twitter that some commission members objected to. This comment has led to this discussion of withdrawing the State Library from its membership in the American Library Association.

The statement that was made by Emily was not unconstitutional to the United States constitution, the Montana State Constitution, nor goes against the rules or statutes of the State of Montana. Her comment was made on a personal social media site and does not reflect the



beliefs, values or direction of the entire ALA and its members. The American Library Association is a non-partisan, non-profit member driven association. The ALA president is a one-year volunteer position that is a spokesperson for the Association. This role cannot change the Association without ALA staff, the executive board, ALA council, and entire membership approving the changes. If you truly want to make a change in the Association, stay in it and speak up, do not walk away.

Almost every State agency is a member of a national organization that provides support and resources to them and connects them with other people and agencies around the nation. Pulling the Montana State Library away from ALA will leave the State Library, and potentially every library in the State unprotected and without support. Every professional organization relies on a network of connected individuals, access to resources and support, and assistance from other organizations to help them stay current, active and useful. This is especially true for libraries.

I realize your decision only affects the Montana State Library, but the State Library has many needs from funds, support, assistance, and access to resources provided by the ALA. Disassociating the State Library from ALA tells the other libraries in the State the State Library does not trust or believe in the Association. Your decision to separate also says you do not trust the amazing staff of the State Library to make informed decisions and evaluate resources from ALA based on their own education, knowledge and experience. Taking away the ecosystem of professional libraries and librarians from the State Library is telling them that they and their hard work and dedication do not matter simply due to a single comment.

The last time the American Library Association faced states separating their affiliation with the Association was in the early 1960's, when some southern states objected to the desegregation of Libraries and State Chapters. Now you are asking the Montana State Library, and through it, all the public, school, academic and special libraries, and all the librarians and library staff in the State to disassociate from the American Library Association, potentially losing access to all the support, resources, assistance, and networking provided to them, simply because you disagree with a comment the current president said that does not reflect the entire Association.

I am asking as a Librarian and as a citizen of Montana for you to not start isolating our State Library and potentially all of our libraries from the American Library Association, and distancing us from everything we get from the ALA. The \$1000 dollars the State Library pays annually for ALA is worth many times that in what the State Library and every library receives in return. The loss of this resource will cost the taxpayers in Montana more than the \$1000.

Thank you.

Matt Beckstrom, Montana Library Association ALA Representative



From: Paul Nachman <paul_nachman@yahoo.com>
To: jstapp2@mt.gov <jstapp2@mt.gov>
Sent: Sunday, July 9, 2023 at 02:07:27 AM MDT
Subject: Drop the library commission's ALA membership!

Dear Ms. Stapp,

I think the Montana State Library Commission should end its affiliation with the American Library Association.

The \$1,000/year expense isn't the issue. And it's plausible that ALA membership offers some technical expertise that's of use to the Commission.

The problem, as I see it, is the ALA's penchant for striking poses and taking positions on matters that have nothing to do with operating libraries. This becomes evident by exploring the ALA's website.

For example, an ALA executive-board press release of March 11, 2021 contains this: "In the aftermath of the murders of eight people [in Atlanta], including six Asian women, we again amplify the words of our colleagues in the Asian Pacific American Librarians Association and join them in asking all ALA members to publicly condemn anti-AAPI racism through visible actions and join forces in battling discrimination, xenophobia, and white supremacy."

Yes, it was a horrific event (though there was no evidence it had anything to do with discrimination, xenophobia, or "white supremacy"). But library associations—this includes the APALA—that feel the need to take such a position have lost focus. They've become political-advocacy organizations, engaging in posturing (as in this example) and encouraging claims of grievance. In a society that's already as diverse as America's, such divisive efforts are pernicious.

Montana doesn't need today's ALA.

Paul Nachman
1611 W. Koch St.
Bozeman 59715

Reference: <https://www.ala.org/news/press-releases/2021/03/ala-executive-board-supports-apala-recognizing-and-condemning-ongoing-anti> [ala.org]



Dear Ms. Lighthiser-

I am asking for you to support the motion to leave the ALA. The American Library Association has unfortunately become a negative influence on our public libraries. The current president of the ALA who was voted in last year is Emily Drabinski, a proud Marxist. Ms. Drabinski supports a platform that is un-American. She believes that the ALA “has the power to shape national and international agendas for libraries of all kinds.” She also will “direct resources and opportunities to a diverse cross-section of the association and advance a public agenda that puts organizing for justice at the center of library work.” She made these statements while running for the position of president of the ALA (see attached). Ms. Drabinski makes it very clear what that agenda is and the ALA supports it right alongside her. No need to look any further than their Library Bill of Rights under Schools and Minors’ Rights stating that they believe minors should have access to ALL library resources or it will violate their Library Bill of Rights (see attached). This strong statement shows that the ALA believes all books should be available to all minors regardless of content, I disagree. A child needs boundaries, they have boundaries for drinking, smoking, movies, tattoos, voting, etc. Yet the ALA rejects boundaries on books for minors. Why? This is the question that should be asked, why is the ALA so hell-bent on giving access to obscene and sexualized reading material to our youth? If you dig deeper into this leftist association the answer is clear, Marxism.

I am asking you to do the right thing and support the motion to leave the ALA. You have an opportunity to start a movement in this great United States of America. Montana can be the leader of this movement and with the decision to leave the ALA, I have no doubt other states will follow. On behalf of the youth in America, be the leader and remove this Association from your state. This will not be a mistake, but rather, one of the best decisions you will ever make.

Thank you,

Janice Danforth

7 Attachments:

Attachment 1/7




Emily Drabinski
@edrabinski

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!

And my mom is SO PROUD I love you mom.

thepostmillennial.com
Marxist elected to head American Library Association
"The consequences of decades of unchecked climate change, class war, white supremacy, and imperialism have led us here. If we want a ...

Attachment 2/7:



emily4ala What's my platform? (1 of 6)

◆ ◆ ◆

Decades of disinvestment in public institutions coupled with deep inequalities at the core of our profession have left our libraries without the resources necessary to advance our common mission of providing access to information in all its forms to everyone in our communities.

In the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic, the essential place of libraries has made itself known, as has the urgent need to restore the resources necessary for libraries to fulfill their core missions.

The American Library Association must advocate for what we need most: reinvestment in schools, libraries, and communities, economic and racial justice for library workers and the communities in which we live and work, environmental sustainability, and collaboration and cooperation beyond our borders.

I have spent twenty years in the field in jobs ranging from looseleaf legal filer to library director and most jobs in between. These experiences shape my commitments to public life and the public good and the place of libraries in both. The American Library Association has the power to shape national and international agendas for libraries of all kinds.

If elected, the following priorities will guide my work with and on behalf of all of us. #Emilv4ALA

Attachment 3/7



emily4ala What's my platform? (2 of 6)

If elected, the following priorities will guide my work with and on behalf of all of us.

Equity as action.

Social and economic justice and racial equity requires that we make a material difference in the lives of library workers and patrons who have for too long been denied power and opportunity on the basis of race, gender, sexuality, national origin, spoken language, and disability. As ALA president, I will direct resources and opportunities to a diverse cross section of the association and advance a public agenda that puts organizing for justice at the center of library work.

[#Emily4ALA](#)

70w

Attachment 4/7



emily4ala What's my platform? (4 of 6)



International connections.

The problems facing us are faced by colleagues outside our borders, many of whom have been working on these issues for years, and whose innovative ideas and strategies can serve as models for our own. And we must contend with the dominance of North American and European publishers and vendors that restrict access and audience for readers and researchers around the world. Learning from each other is important, but our solutions must be international too. As ALA president, I will develop and share a global vision of librarianship in which international cooperation and exchange are central to equity and justice.

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[#Emily4ala](#)

70w

Attachment 5/7:



emily4ala What's my platform? (6 of 6)



Collective organizing for collective power.

From organized attacks on library funding to attempts to ban books to state bans on what can and can't be taught in the classroom, all of us face pressures that get in the way of our core missions. As ALA president I will bring an organizing approach to association leadership, getting us talking with each other as we collectively develop a national campaign for libraries. How will I make that happen? Let's find out. Remember: there are more of us than there are of them, especially when we work together.

--

[#Emily4ALA](#)

70w

Attachment 6/7:

Schools and Minors' Rights

Our founders recognized that public schools are a vital institution of American democracy. But education, they also knew, involved more than reading, writing, and arithmetic. Education in a democratic society requires developing citizens who can adapt to changing times, make decisions about social issues, and effectively judge the performance of public officials. In fulfilling their responsibilities, public schools must not only provide knowledge of many subject areas and essential skills, but must also educate students on core American values such as fairness, equality, justice, respect for others, and the right to dissent.



ALA Statements and Policies on Schools and Minors' Rights

[Access to Library Resources and Services for Minors: An Interpretation of the *Library Bill of Rights* \(2019\)](#)

Library policies and procedures that effectively deny minors equal and equitable access to all library resources available to other users violate the Library Bill of Rights. The American Library Association opposes all attempts to restrict access to library services, materials, and facilities based on the age of library users.

[Access to Resources and Services in the School Library: An Interpretation of the *Library Bill of Rights* \(2014\)](#)

The school library plays a unique role in promoting intellectual freedom. It serves as a point of voluntary access to information and ideas and as a learning laboratory for students as they acquire critical thinking and problem-solving skills needed in a pluralistic society. Although the educational level and program of the school necessarily shapes the resources and services of a school library, the principles of the Library Bill of Rights apply equally to all libraries, including school libraries.

[Minors and Online Activity: An Interpretation of the *Library Bill of Rights* \(2019\)](#)

The digital environment offers opportunities both for accessing information created by others and for creating and sharing new information. The rights of minors to retrieve, interact with, and create information posted on the Internet in schools and libraries are extensions of their First Amendment rights.



Attachment 7/7:

Access to Library Resources and Services for Minors: An Interpretation of the Library Bill of Rights

The American Library Association supports equal and equitable access to all library resources and services by users of all ages. Library policies and procedures that effectively deny minors equal and equitable access to all library resources and services available to other users is in violation of the American Library Association's *Library Bill of Rights*. The American Library Association opposes all attempts to restrict access to library services, materials, and facilities based on the age of library users.

Article V of the *Library Bill of Rights* states, "A person's right to use a library should not be denied or abridged because of origin, age, background, or views." The right to use a library includes free access to, and unrestricted use of, all the services, materials, and facilities the library has to offer. Every restriction on access to, and use of, library resources, based solely on the chronological age, apparent maturity, educational level, literacy skills, emancipatory or other legal status of users violates Article V. This includes minors who do not have a parent or guardian available to sign a library card application or permission slip. Unaccompanied youth experiencing homelessness should be able to obtain a library card regardless of library policies related to chronological age.

School and public libraries are charged with the mission of providing services and resources to meet the diverse interests and informational needs of the communities they serve. Services, materials, and facilities that fulfill the needs and interests of library users at different stages in their personal development are a necessary part of providing library services and should be determined on an individual basis. Equitable access to all library resources and services should not be abridged based on chronological age, apparent maturity, educational level, literacy skills, legal status, or through restrictive scheduling and use policies.

Libraries should not limit the selection and development of library resources simply because minors will have access to them. A library's failure to acquire materials on the grounds that minors may be able to access those materials diminishes the credibility of the library in the community and restricts access for all library users.

Children and young adults unquestionably possess First Amendment rights, including the right to receive information through the library in print, sound, images, data, social media, online applications, games, technologies, programming, and other formats.¹ Constitutionally protected speech cannot be suppressed solely to protect children or young adults from ideas or images a legislative body believes to be unsuitable for them.² Libraries and their library governing bodies should not resort to age restrictions in an effort to avoid actual or anticipated objections, because only a court of law can determine whether or not content is constitutionally protected.

To whom it may concern,

I am writing as President of the nonprofit, Pornography Is Not Education to support Montana's efforts to discontinue its relationship with the American Library Association (ALA).

We have a great deal of experience dealing with the ALA and it has been profoundly disappointing. Members of our parent group raised concerns about classroom books and digital content that included erotic, adult text, images, and even embedded live hyperlinks to hard core porn sites eg. Pornhub and adult sex shops with full color advertisements. The ALA defended every resource, no matter how egregious, while also casting aspersions against our members as "prudes" or "religious zealots".



Representatives for the ALA and for its Colorado affiliates went so far as to show up at legislative hearings to testify against our child safety bills, giving very misleading and even blatantly dishonest testimony in a coordinated effort to maintain obscene and harmful content for minor children. I was recently interviewed by the Wall Street Journal to discuss our group's work supporting legislators in 12 states with safety bills to hold vendors and publishers accountable (see our website, below). The ALA and its state affiliates have consistently fought these safety efforts, nationwide.

The ALA has disgraced itself beyond repair, even going so far as to establish a so-called "bill of rights for minors" which demands there shall be no abridgement of any media whatsoever based on age – a literal "porn-for-kids" agenda. The ALA is heavily associated with commercial vendors and publishers of K-12 material and appears to have a serious financial conflict of interest.

Thank you for your efforts to hold the ALA accountable, to end association with them, and to fight for the safety and dignity of Montana's children.

Sincerely,

Dr. Robin Paterson
President, Pornography Is Not Education
www.pornographyisnoteducation.org [pornographyisnoteducation.org]
drew_robin_paterson@q.com

Good morning,

Please proceed in removing Montana from the American Library Association. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Virginia Stene Raines
Billings
grandmaginny84@gmail.com

As a concerned Montanan (taxpayer) with school aged children, I strongly support Montana leaving the American Library Association (ALA).

The amount of inappropriate:

- non-age;
- graphic;
- disproportionate towards non-societal and harmful sexual material;



In our public & school libraries exposing our children to grave harm, is unacceptable.

The ALA has been purposeful in placing, or allowing to be placed, content in our public taxpayer (by me!) funded schools and city libraries, which is demoralizing and jeopardizing our children.

The current ALA bent is determined to permanently mould & impact our children's current & future body choices which will influence children's mental & physical health for the rest of their lives.

The ALA agenda is out of control!

WE THE PEOPLE who FUND
Our libraries with OUR TAX DOLLARS

PLEASE DISASSOCIATE MONTANA FROM THE ALA

Kari Kuhr
montanakids@gmail.com

Dear Ms. Stapp and the Montana State Library Commission:

I remember going to the library when I was a child, I remember loading up on books about the Bermuda Triangle, thinking maybe I could solve the puzzle if I read enough about the mysterious waters in the Atlantic. I read a lot about WW2 and the evils of communism, I loved (and still do) stories of heroes who fought and died for freedom. I would spend Saturdays at the library regularly, downstairs, by myself, in the kids section.

When I take my kids to the library now, I don't let them browse books by themselves because the books on display aren't about history, the good guys, or marine mysteries--they are about sex and thinly veiled critical theories that I don't want my kids exposed to. I don't understand the capture of our libraries but I hope that you will take a stand against a Marxist-lead organization and vote to leave the ALA.

Thank you,
Emily Daniels
Bozeman, MT
Emilyd406@protonmail.com



As a trained literacy specialist who has worked with elementary students for 40 years and as a part of the National Writing Project working with a variety of educators and students I am thrilled to hear that Montana is considering cutting ties with the ALA. Our once loved libraries are no longer a place where children and adults are offered classical literature. Instead the ALA dictates what is to be put in the libraries using up valuable resources and money which could be used much more wisely. The ALA practices censorship through the ALA mandated acquisitions department.

It is time for a change in our library system and it must be in the hands of the local community with parent input. Good literature does not mean that we push an agenda of any kind. Again, I applaud Montana for standing up to the ALA.

Kristi McNeal
Lolo, Montana
kinderkristi17@gmail.com