

## AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION/FLORIDA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION (ALA/FLA) REMOVAL SCRIPT-FLORIDA

## Good morning/evening:

Recently, the American Library Association (ALA) has come under rightful scrutiny for their public embrace of progressive values that are largely inconsistent with the constitutional ideals representative of America's founding. As the decades-long recipient of sizeable financial contributions from organizations such as the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and the George Soros-affiliated groups, the Open Society Institute and the Tides Foundation, the ALA has also elected Emily Drabinski, a self-proclaimed "Marxist lesbian" to lead their organization, with the stated goal of "queering the landscape of library publishing and scholarship." This is in alignment with the ALA's passionate advocacy of sexually explicit books aimed at children, toward which many parents and concerned citizens have rightfully sought removal, including titles such as *Gender Queer*, *All Boys Aren't Blue*, *Flamer*, and *This Book is Gay*.

In further rejection of parental and community efforts to protect children from these books, the ALA announced the creation of a group called "Unite Against Book Bans" that proudly fights to keep obscene materials within children's reach. To do this, the ALA has targeted people of faith, as evidenced in their attempt to cancel Kirk Cameron's Brave Book Story Hours. This far-left agenda motivating the ALA's actions has been repeatedly displayed in the guidelines, conference lineups, sponsored events, and other materials issued by the ALA. This has included encouraging librarians to alter existing library material to "sneak" in LGBTQ+ content by changing the genders and/or sexual orientations of protagonists to normalize LGBTQ+ content and the provision of a suggested reading list for children *aged 0-5* featuring books that claim to "challenge gender norms and explore the wide spectrum of gender identity," something that would be inappropriate for any child, let alone those who are infant, toddler, and preschool aged.

The ALA's influence can also be observed in the direction undertaken by its state-affiliated chapters, including the Florida Library Association (FLA). In its FLA Statement on Pride Month, the organization stated that its "goal" was for "Florida libraries to act in accordance with current research on diversity, equity, and inclusion." This statement also advocated for "allowing everyone access to materials, facilities, activities, and programs that are consistent with their gender identity." At its annual conference, the FLA featured an openly queer LGBTQ activist writer as its Keynote Speaker for the annual FLA 2023 Conference. Beyond the FLA's LGBTQ+ activism, the FLA has also advanced critical race theory ideology, including the idea that American libraries are systemically racist in the development of its Diversity, Equity, Inclusion & Accessibility Value Statements on "the insidious and persistent racism present in our nation."

As a concerned [parent/grandparent/citizen], I do not support the use of taxpayer dollars for my county library system to be governed by an organization that operates in blatant disregard for the welfare and safety of children. Currently, [your county] abides by the [ALA/FLA's] rules and regulations, a decision that undoubtedly constitutes submission to the ALA's authority. In light of this, I ask that you call for the termination of and divestment from any membership or affiliation with the ALA and the FLA to stand up for the right of children to receive an education unencumbered by progressive indoctrination. Thank you.