Your Voice In Government | (786) 447-6431 | PO Box 650216 Miami Florida 33265-0216

Oct. 18, 2023

## Dear Board of County Commissioners,

We represent a coalition of several state and national pro-family and parental rights organizations that have joined forces in a statewide campaign to defund the American Library Association (ALA) over its aggressive sexual grooming agenda. Led by Christian Family Coalition (CFC) Florida, which spearheaded this effort in August, our campaign has already resulted in three Florida counties ending their associations with ALA over the last two months.

We are now uniting our voices to urge you to join this growing movement of counties around the state that are cutting ties with the ALA by terminating your county's membership in this radical organization and its state chapter affiliate the Florida Library Association, as well as the ALA divisions of the Public Library Association and United for Libraries: The Association of Library Trustees, Advocates, Friends and Foundations.

The ALA has become notorious for its aggressive promotion of "Drag Queen Story Hours" and sexually explicit LGBT materials targeting children. The ALA's current president is self-proclaimed "Marxist lesbian" Emily Drabinski, who has a long history of advocating for the "queering" of public libraries.

But the ALA's radical agenda of sexualizing children goes back years before Drabinski's presidency. Over a decade ago, the ALA started the Rainbow Project Book List. This recommended reading list for children aggressively pushes alternative sexual lifestyles and "gender fluidity" themes on children as young as 3 months, with titles such as Two Grooms on a Cake, for ages 6 to 9; The True Story of a Boy Named Penelope, for ages 4 to 8, which celebrates transgenderism in children; and Bye Bye Binary, for ages 3 months to 4 years, which encourages "dismantling gender norms" from infancy.

The ALA has wielded enormous influence in shaping library collections through its book purchase recommendations, and it has used that influence to fill children's sections not only with books that push gender ideology indoctrination, but outright pornographic content. The ALA's so-called "Banned Books List" celebrates these pornographic books by pushing the narrative that efforts to keep them away from children and out of school libraries are a form of censorship that must be resisted. The ALA actually encourages libraries during so-called "Banned Books Week" to promote these books on posters and conspicuously placed display cases in public and school libraries to encourage children to check them out. These books include Gender Queer, which includes graphic depictions of teens engaging in oral sex; Lawn Boy, which depicts sex between men and children; and Beyond Magenta, which includes a graphic description of a 6-year-old performing oral

sex on multiple men. The ALA coaches librarians to push back on parents who object to these pornographic materials being made available to their children by casting them as villains and "book banners." Drabinski's designated successor as ALA president, Cindy Hohl, who will start her term in July 2024, can be expected to aggressively carry on this insidious agenda given the fact that she is the current treasurer of the "Freedom to Read Foundation," which is behind the "Banned Books List" promoting these pornographic materials to children.

The ALA has been encouraging the expansion of <u>Drag Queen Story Hours</u> in libraries for over five years. The ALA's website devotes an <u>entire page</u> to resources to help librarians plan drag queen story hours to encourage children to explore what they call their "gender fluidity."

Sen. Marco Rubio has rightly called for <u>ending all federal funding</u> to the ALA and conducting an investigation into its efforts to censor and discriminate against Christian author and actor Kirk Cameron and his publisher Brave Books. When Cameron attempted to organize a national family-friendly story hour on Aug. 5 in libraries across the country, Deborah Caldwell-Stone, the director of the ALA's Office for Intellectual Freedom, coached librarians on how to "invent programming" for that day so library reading rooms would not be available for the event.

Several counties and states have already severed ties with the ALA, including Florida's <u>Citrus</u>, <u>Hernando</u>, and <u>Collier</u> counties; Campbell County, Wyo.; Midland County, Texas; and the Montana, Texas and Missouri state libraries, with more on the way. We urge you to do the same. By voting to terminate dues membership in the ALA, you will be sending a strong message that your county is standing up to this radical and corrupt organization while adding momentum to the movement to defund the ALA across the state of Florida and around the United States.

Once again, we strongly urge you to vote to end your county's membership in the ALA, its state chapter affiliate the Florida Library Association, and the ALA divisions of the Public Library Association and United for Libraries: The Association of Library Trustees, Advocates, Friends and Foundations.

Please let us know if you plan to place this item on the agenda for consideration at your next meeting. Thank you for your attention to this matter. We are excited about the opportunity to partner with you and look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Christian Family Coalition (CFC) Florida (Anthony Verdugo)
Moms for Liberty Florida Legislative Committee (Jamie Merchant)
Florida Citizens Alliance (Keith Flaugh and Pastor Rick Stevens)
Republican Liberty Caucus of Florida (Bob White)
Citizens Defending Freedom (Sarah Calamunci)
Florida Republican Assembly (Lou Marin)
Moms for America (Rebekah Ricks)
Defend Florida (Raj Doraisamy)