

5. RESOLUTION CONDEMNING THE BANNING OF BOOKS IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND LIBRARIES

Whereas, reading is a fundamental skill that underlies nearly all other learning and should be encouraged, not discouraged, and

Whereas, The First Amendment to the US Constitution guarantees Americans' freedom of expression, and

Whereas, The Supreme Court violated the First Amendment by upholding the Fifth Circuit's ruling that book removals by local officials from public libraries are acceptable and,

Whereas, Public librarians, school librarians, and teachers are professionals trained to choose materials appropriate for their patrons and students, have MLS degrees and are bound by the ALA Bill of Rights and,

Whereas, Parents should monitor what their own children read, but must never be allowed to dictate what other people's children or adults themselves may read and study, and

Whereas, Young people need access to books where they can see themselves in the pages and that address adversity and complex issues that they need to learn how to handle, and

Whereas, our democracy demands that its citizens be educated and have access to information that allows them to be responsible, informed citizens, and

Whereas, There were ¹ 6,870 book ban instances in 2024–25; nearly 23,000 since 2021 across 45 states (*PEN America, Oct. 2025*). ² ALA documented 821 censorship attempts in 2024 — 3rd highest ever since 1990; 2,452 unique titles (*ALA State of Libraries 2025*)

Whereas, 72% of challenges come from organized groups and officials, and only 16% from parents, and

Whereas, Florida leads the nation for the 3rd consecutive year — 2,304 bans; Texas (1,781); Tennessee (1,622)

Whereas, ² Award-winning banned books: *The Perks of Being a Wallflower* (ALA Best Book for YA; #4 most challenged); *Looking for Alaska* (Printz Award; #6); *Sold* (National Book Award finalist; #9); *The Bluest Eye*, Morrison, Nobel laureate (#3), *The New Jim Crow*, *Gender Queer*, *Between the World & Me*, and

Whereas, a Hart Research and North Star Opinion Research poll found that 70 percent of voters oppose public library book bans, and Public Religion Research Institute found that 75 percent support teachers and librarians to choose materials that teach the good and bad of American history, English literature, and

Therefore, Be It Resolved, NOW condemns book bans, whether on religious, cultural, non-porn sex (defined by courts), or politically motivated.

Be It Further Resolved, NOW demands that public schools have policies that allow a parent to individually opt their child out of specific books, but prohibit group censorship.

Further Resolved, NOW demands policies that allow a parent to individually opt their child out of specific books (Parental individual opt-out rights). NOW demands no group censorship, including banning non-parents from providing a book to be banned, and from providing lists of books to ban.

Further Resolved, NOW condemns all religious, cultural, DEI-related, gender fluidity, non-porn sexual activity, and politically motivated book bans.

Further Resolved, NOW acknowledges the expertise of teachers and librarians, and condemns harassment and retaliation against them, and

Further Resolved, NOW calls on all state legislatures, state departments of education, and school boards to repeal laws and policies for the censorship of books or any other educational materials.

Further Resolved that NOW condemns the teaching of whitewashed American history and demands that the history and contributions of marginalized communities be taught, and

Be It Finally Resolved NOW urges all chapters to speak out publicly against censorship of

books or other educational materials, with the understanding that children must be able to see themselves represented in books and educational materials, plus learn real U.S. history. NOW will provide talking points for school board and other community meetings, as well as training on how to testify.

Submitted by: Mary Mosley, SW Idaho