

Resolution in Support of the Freedom to Read

Whereas the right to read is a fundamental concern of the American Library Association;

Whereas the First Amendment to the United States Constitution guarantees all individuals the right to express their ideas without governmental interference and to read and to listen to the ideas of others;

Whereas the freedom to read is essential to our democracy;

Whereas private groups and public authorities in various parts of the state are working to remove or limit access to reading materials, to censor content in schools, to label items perceived as containing controversial views, to distribute lists of books and authors that portions of the community have deemed objectionable, and to purge libraries of materials of which these groups do not approve;

Whereas libraries offer materials for all parts of the community and have a longstanding belief in the ability of each person and family to decide what is right for themselves while maintaining collections that reflect the diversity of the entire community,

Resolved that the Georgia Library Association (GLA) and Georgia Library Media Association (GLMA) on behalf of their members:

1. Affirms that we, as individuals and organizations who are responsible for disseminating ideas, assert the public interest in the preservation of the freedom to read;
2. Affirms that it is the responsibility of librarians and library workers to contest encroachments upon that freedom by individuals or groups seeking to impose their own standards or tastes upon the community at large; and
3. Advocates against legislative and regulatory policies which would remove or limit access to reading materials in libraries of all types.

Approved by the Executive Board of the Georgia Library Association on July 23, 2021, with approval by and support of the Executive Board of the Georgia Library Media Association on June 6, 2021.