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CONTACT: Jas Chana, NCAC Communications Director
jas@ncac.org, 212-807-6222 ext.107

Reject Calls to Remove Book Series from Florida School Library, Free Speech Groups Urge

New York, NY, Aug 25 2016- The National Coalition Against Censorship (NCAC) and a group of free speech advocates are coming to the defense of popular, but frequently censored, books, urging school officials to leave them in the school library.

TTYL and *TTFN*, two books in the “Internet Girls” series by Lauren Myracle, were at the top of the American Library Association’s “Top 10 Most Challenged Books” in 2009 and 2011. Now parents of children at Yulee Middle School, Nassau County, Fla, want them out of the school library because they object to references to drug use, underage drinking and sex. The school has convened a review committee to address the challenge.

NCAC’s letter highlights that removing the books would limit the access of all students to the books, just because some parents dislike them. It points out that the books have been praised for their engaging and unique narrative style and their appeal to young readers. It further notes that the First Amendment prohibits the removal of a library book “simply because it offends someone’s notion of ‘community standards’.” The letter is signed by the Comic Book Legal Defense Fund, the Association of American Publishers, the National Coalition of Teachers of English, Authors Guild, American Booksellers for Free Expression and PEN America.

The letter, while acknowledging “no book is right for every student,” underlines that a school library that caves to every book objection would leave the educational and practical function of that library—to provide reading options for all students—in shreds.

"Justifying censorship by focusing on selected excerpts and taking them out of context, rather than seeing the book as a whole, is the complete opposite of what students are taught about the study of literature and undermines one of the fundamental missions of the library," said NCAC Executive Director Joan Bertin.

[READ THE FULL LETTER](#)

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The National Coalition Against Censorship (NCAC) is an alliance of 50 national non-profit organizations dedicated to defending freedom of thought, inquiry and expression.

