

**N**ational  
**C**oalition  
**A**gainst  
**C**ensorship

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Statement in support of *Bad Little Children's Books* (Abrams, 2016)

As organizations dedicated to protecting intellectual freedom, the freedom to write, and the freedom to read, we are concerned about recent attacks on a humorous book, *Bad Little Children's Books*, which has recently come under attack by critics who are offended by its satirical send-up of children's books and contemporary culture.

The publisher, ABRAMS, describes the book as "edgy, politically incorrect parodies that speak to the bad little kid in all of us." Written for an adult audience, the book includes "parodies of children's book covers from more innocent times... [and] leaves no bad joke unmade."

Humor that employs satire and parody is often the subject of criticism and controversy. Some of the most significant comedians of the recent past - Lenny Bruce, Richard Pryor, Tom Lehrer, Trey Parker and Matt Stone, Sarah Silverman, Margaret Cho, and many others - have been vilified for doing precisely what this book does - make fun of social niceties, conventional wisdom, and sacred cows. At the same time, there are many who appreciate this type of humor, as evidenced by other readers' reaction to the book, like one who wrote "So distasteful, it's delicious. Hysterical."

We support ABRAMS' decision to publish this, or any other book, even if it offends some readers. We urge the company not to accede to pressure to withdraw the book, but to stand for the proposition that it is the right of authors to write as they choose and of individuals to decide for themselves what to read. After all, anyone who doesn't like the book doesn't have to buy it.

As defenders of free expression and intellectual freedom, we value the incredibly rich array of books that publishers make available for readers with different needs, interests, and sensibilities. It would be a tragic loss if publishers withdrew or declined to publish any book because some people don't like it. Our bookstores and library shelves would become barren places indeed.

Endorsed by:

National Coalition Against Censorship  
Association of American Publishers  
Comic Book Legal Defense Fund  
Office for Intellectual Freedom, American Library Association  
National Council of Teachers of English

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(List in formation)

**Joan E. Bertin**  
*Executive Director*

**NCAC PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS**

Actors' Equity Association  
American Association of School Administrators  
American Association of University Professors  
American Association of University Women  
American Booksellers for Free Expression  
American Civil Liberties Union  
American Ethical Union  
American Federation of Teachers  
American Jewish Committee  
American Library Association  
American Literary Translators Association  
American Orthopsychiatric Association  
American Society of Journalists & Authors  
Americans United for Separation of Church & State  
Association of American Publishers  
Authors Guild  
Catholics for Choice  
Children's Literature Association  
College Art Association  
Comic Book Legal Defense Fund  
The Creative Coalition  
Directors Guild of America  
The Dramatists Guild of America  
Dramatists Legal Defense Fund  
Educational Book & Media Association  
First Amendment Lawyers Association  
Free Speech Coalition  
International Literacy Association  
Lambda Legal  
Modern Language Association National  
Center for Science Education National  
Communication Association National  
Council for the Social Studies National  
Council of the Churches National  
Council of Jewish Women National  
Council of Teachers of English National  
Education Association National Youth  
Rights Association  
The Newspaper Guild/CWA  
PEN America  
People For the American Way  
Planned Parenthood Federation of America  
Project Censored  
SAG-AFTRA  
Sexuality Information & Education Council of the U.S.  
Society of Children's Book Writers & Illustrators  
Student Press Law Center  
Union for Reform Judaism  
Union of Democratic Intellectuals  
Unitarian Universalist Association  
United Church of Christ  
Office of Communication  
United Methodist Church,  
United Methodist Communications  
Women's American ORT  
Woodhull Freedom Foundation  
Writers Guild of America, East  
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