

**NATIONAL
COALITION
AGAINST
CENSORSHIP** **KIDS'
RIGHT
TO READ**

March 24, 2023

Board of Trustees
The Greenville County Library System
25 Heritage Green Place
Greenville, SC 29601

Dear Members of the Board of Trustees,

The National Coalition Against Censorship is an alliance of national nonprofit groups dedicated to protecting freedom of expression, including the rights of K-12 students, teachers, and staff. We are writing in regard to a recent proposed change to your library collection policy, which would limit access to children and young adult books which affirm "that a person's gender is other than that person's biological sex."

That proposed policy targeting books with a particular viewpoint on gender is impermissible, viewpoint-based discrimination which is likely to violate First Amendment principles. As the Supreme Court has repeatedly stated, "the First Amendment does not tolerate viewpoint discrimination." *Iancu v. Brunetti*, 139 S. Ct. 2294, 2303 (2019). Thus, American courts have struck down the attempt of "any special interest group to suppress library materials on the basis of their content," observing that such a system "actually facilitates an infinite number of content- and viewpoint-based speech restrictions" *Sund v. City of Wichita Falls, Texas*, 121 F. Supp. 2d 530, 549 (N.D. Tex. 2000).

We urge you to strike any proposed policy changes that reflect viewpoint-based discrimination.

Please let us know if you have any questions or need any further support.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Sincerely yours,



Christopher Finan
Executive Director
National Coalition Against Censorship

Co-signed by: American Booksellers for Free Expression
The Authors Guild
Children's and Young Adult Books Committee, PEN America
PEN America
Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators

A project of the National
Coalition Against Censorship

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