

BONGMICI

FTQ

<https://www.ala.org/news/2026/02/ala-denounces-HR-7661>

WASHINGTON - In response to [H.R. 7661](#), introduced on February 24, American Library Association President Sam Helmick issued the following statement:

"Parents, not politicians, should guide their children's reading. In our school, campus, and public libraries, materials are selected by trained literacy professionals who understand child development and community needs. Their work is grounded in one clear purpose: helping young people become lifelong readers.

"H.R. 7661 isn't fundamentally about protecting kids. It's about giving politicians broad authority to restrict whose stories are allowed on our shelves. That should concern anyone who believes in the freedom to read and the right of families to make decisions for themselves.

"Rather than targeting librarians and teachers, Congress should invest in them. The Right to Read Act offers a better path, supporting well-staffed and well-resourced school libraries, strengthening evidence-based literacy instruction, and protecting the dedicated professionals who help young people discover books that open doors and expand horizons. When we trust families, support educators, and protect the freedom to read, our young people thrive."

H.R. 7661, also known as the "Stop the Sexualization of Children Act," would modify the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 by prohibiting use of funds under the act "to develop, implement, facilitate, host, or promote any program or activity for, or to provide or promote literature or other materials to, children under the age of 18 that includes sexually oriented material, and for other purposes."

ALA urges advocates to call their members of Congress at the Capitol switchboard (202.224.3121) and ask them to oppose H.R. 7661.

About the American Library Association

The American Library Association is the largest non-partisan, nonprofit organization dedicated to America's libraries. The ALA mission is to empower and advocate for all libraries and library workers to ensure equitable access to information for all. For 150 years, ALA has provided resources for information professionals to transform their communities through essential programs and services. For more information, visit www.ala.org.