



JOHN R. ASHCROFT
SECRETARY OF STATE
STATE OF MISSOURI

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July 7, 2023

Tracie D. Hall
ALA Executive Director
225 N Michigan Ave, Suite 1300
Chicago, IL 60601

SENT VIA EMAIL

Dear Ms. Hall,

It recently came to my attention that the Director of the American Library Association's Office for Intellectual Freedom Deborah Caldwell-Stone gave a presentation promoting libraries to "exploit loopholes to block" a faith-based book publisher from holding story hours in libraries across the country including Missouri. The American Library Association Library Bill of Rights states in Article VI, that "Libraries which make exhibit spaces and meeting rooms available to the public they serve should make such facilities available on an equitable basis, regardless of the beliefs or affiliations of individuals or groups requesting their use."

The Missouri Secretary of State's office, which administers the Missouri State Library cannot continue to support an organization that does not protect the first amendment rights of Missourians and refuses to follow its own governing documents. Therefore, I have instructed my staff to discontinue any future financial payments to the American Library Association. My hope is that you reconsider this blatantly political stance, abide by your own principles, and protect the rights of Missourians.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John R. Ashcroft".

John R. Ashcroft
Missouri Secretary of State