

**NATIONAL
COALITION
AGAINST
CENSORSHIP**

**KIDS'
RIGHT
TO READ**

March 30, 2023

Board of Directors
Canby School District
1130 S. Ivy St
Canby, OR 97013

Dear Members of the Board of Directors,

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 response to news reports that over 35 books have been removed from District libraries pending review.

As we understand it, the district's current policy permits challenged books to be removed from the library during the lengthy adjudication process. That policy may encourage some people to file meritless challenges for the sole purpose of limiting students' access to ideas they dislike. In addition to harming students, such challenges may put enormous strain on the District which will be required to spend time adjudicating baseless claims.

Many districts avoid that problem by creating policies that state that challenged materials must remain on shelves while in review. Therefore, we encourage you to consider amending your policy to include a statement affirming that access to materials will not be restricted during reconsideration procedures.

NCAC has created a resource to help school officials address the problem of book challenges, *Material Review and Policy Guidelines and Examples*. It is attached.

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

Thank you for your attention and consideration 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
National Council of Teachers of English
Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators

A project of the National
Coalition Against Censorship

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