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March 19, 2025

Connecticut Library Association Condemns Kent Memorial Library Commission's Proposed Youth Collection and Acquisition Policy

The Connecticut Library Association (CLA) condemns in the strongest terms the [proposed Youth Collection and Acquisition Policy](#) proposed by the Policy Subcommittee of the Kent Memorial Library Commission. Their attempt to codify viewpoint discrimination, disregard intellectual freedom, and infringe on the constitutional rights of Suffield residents is not only counterproductive but also fundamentally un-American.

The Kent Memorial Library Commission is entrusted with the important responsibility of ensuring that the library serves the needs of the entire community. However, the Commission's proposed policies contradict this mission. Rather than upholding the principles of intellectual freedom, these policies threaten to introduce discriminatory practices into library collections and services.

These actions stand in direct opposition to the library's core commitment to "uphold the principles of intellectual freedom and the public's right to know by providing people of all ages with access to information and collections that reflect all points of view" as stated on their [website and adopted by the commission in 2005](#).

The Connecticut Library Association also strongly condemns the Kent Memorial Library Commission's for their broad overreach and attempt to impose government censorship. Their proposed policy represents a blatant attack on the First Amendment rights of Suffield's residents to access free speech in the library. CLA stands in solidarity with the readers of Suffield who rely on their library as a safe haven for learning and personal growth.

Connecticut Library Association

55 North Main Street; Unit 49

Belchertown, MA 01007

(860)346-2222



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In response to these developments, CLA President Scott Jarzombek, Town Librarian of Fairfield Public Libraries, said, "Librarians all have master's degrees in information science, we are educated and skilled professionals. Children don't need to be protected from books. They need to be protected from un-democratic attempts to restrict their First Amendment rights. Everyone has the freedom to read what they choose."

The Connecticut Library Association calls on the Kent Memorial Library Commission to abandon its proposed policies and honor the rights of Suffield residents under the Constitution. Libraries are the cornerstone of democracy.

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