

Resolution in support of intellectual freedom and libraries Adopted AFT Massachusetts Executive Board March 2, 2024

- Whereas:** AFT Massachusetts supports the right and duty of library staff to oppose censorship and book banning; ensuring free, equal and open access to information for everyone regardless of age or citizenship status; and
- Whereas:** AFT Massachusetts supports intellectual freedom, freedom of expression, diverse programming, and the right to read, learn and share ideas free from viewpoint-based censorship; and
- Whereas:** the vast majority of book challenges and book bans specifically aim to remove books that are by and about communities of color, LGBTQ people, and other marginalized groups; and
- Whereas:** it is the responsibility of library staff, who serve the entire populace, to develop and maintain diverse library collections, programs and displays to support the diverse populations which public libraries serve; and
- Whereas:** anti-majoritarian activity substantially and directly impacts the mental and physical health of library staff, and leads to unsafe workplaces; and
- Whereas:** AFT Massachusetts recognizes that free and open libraries, intellectual freedom, and freedom of expression are essential to a fully functioning and equitable democracy;
- Resolve:** Be it resolved that AFT Massachusetts will support our democratic ideals by opposing censorship and book banning, and by championing intellectual freedom in accordance with the ALA Freedom to Read Statement at <https://www.ala.org/advocacy/intfreedom/freedomreadstatement>; and
- Resolve:** Be it further resolved that AFT Massachusetts will support our MLSA siblings and libraries when anti-majoritarian, fascist and racist groups attack library programs and materials; and
- Resolve:** We ask that AFT Massachusetts adopt this resolution in support of library staff, intellectual freedom, and free access to libraries and library materials.

(For discussion and vote at the AFT Massachusetts Annual Convention, May 4, 2024)

REVISION OR COMMENTS

ADOPTED _____

DEFEATED _____

TABLED _____

