

## Michael Mason

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**From:** Alyson Rigby <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 2, 2026 2:29 PM  
**To:** Senate Education  
**Subject:** SB 238

I am writing to support the bill that slows down the process of censorship and turns librarians into criminals. The point of a library is to offer material that is representative of all members of society, and from cultures other than our own. The power of a book over a movie or other form of media is that it can offer an internal dialogue of how people feel. It is that element that helps create empathy and understanding. Kids need to be reflected in books.

I'm sad to say that an often-challenged book, 'The Glass Castle' by Jeanette Walls, was pivotal in my teenage daughter's healing and opened up hard, honest conversations we needed to have. I'm so grateful that censorship did not bottle that book up and thank the high school teacher that had it available in her room. It was there as an option. It wasn't a book for every child, but helpful for mine.

We all need to talk and have an understanding of others that are different. Please protect the libraries and librarians so they can operate to serve everyone without criminalization. America stands globally as an ambassador of the value of freedom; this should include the freedom to choose what to read.

Respectfully,

*Alyson Rigby*

## Michael Mason

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**From:** Amanda Joy Bailey <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 6, 2026 12:59 AM  
**To:** Senate Education; Sen. Scott Kawasaki  
**Subject:** Support for SB 238

Dear Senate Education Committee,

My name is Amanda Bailey. I am an Alaska resident. I am representing myself.

I write to you today in support of SB 238.

I grew up in libraries. My mother, a devout Christian, took us to the library at least twice each week. The library was an invaluable resource to us as a homeschooling family. I cherish the memories of time spent there and truly believe having access to so many books had an enormously positive effect on my life and education. My mom always exercised her parental responsibility and right to help us choose library books that reflected our family's values. She never tried to limit the rights of other parents to do the same for their own families. She chose to share her faith through love and kindness rather than judgment and control.

As an adult, I want the same opportunity my mother had. I want to enjoy the freedom of selecting materials that align with *my* family's values when I bring my children to the library. I do not assume my values are shared by everyone in my community and would never want to impose my beliefs on others. Unfortunately, there are many people in my community and across the nation who want to do exactly that. They have aggressively hurled lies, threats, and harassment at library staff in an attempt to discredit and publicly shame them with no consequence. There is no recourse for staff. These public servants have been left to suffer through listening to people who do not know them publicly accuse them of being groomers and pedophiles simply for providing access to books such as *The Bluest Eye* by Toni Morrison. These attacks are harmful to the reputations and well-being of library staff, yet no one has tried to stop them in Alaska.

SB 238 will provide meaningful support to Alaska libraries and uphold Alaskans' right to read freely. Parents will be free to guide *their own children's* library use.

SB 238 will not override existing obscenity laws.

I would like to respectfully request that the individual responsible for developing the model policy on curation and reconsideration of materials be amended from the commissioner to the Director of Libraries, Archives, and Museums. It is critical for this policy to be developed by someone who is educated in collection curation and who understands the distinct difference between the selection process and censorship. Creating a model policy of this importance is an enormous responsibility that will affect communities across the state of Alaska. It must be led by someone Alaskans can trust to make an informed, good faith effort to develop a policy that aligns with the mission and purpose of libraries.

Thank you for your time, for the opportunity to provide comments, and for your thoughtful consideration.

Sincerely,  
Amanda Bailey

## Michael Mason

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 2, 2026 3:26 PM  
**To:** Senate Education  
**Subject:** SB238 - Support

I am a resident of the Mat-Su Borough, a library card holder, and a life member of the local friends of the library organization. Libraries are central to the well-being of a community.

My mother took me to the local library when I was just starting elementary school. The library became a wondrous, varied world filled with books on just about everything I could imagine. I am six decades older and continue to rely on the library even when I travel. It's a reliable and consistent source of information. Libraries are staffed with dedicated professionals who support the community every day – whether it's helping someone find a book, use a computer, print a document, get tax information, read a newspaper, learn something new. The list goes on and on.

I support the freedom to read. I support this legislation.

Angella Long

## Michael Mason

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**From:** Angie Fraker <[REDACTED]@m[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 2, 2026 4:49 PM  
**To:** Senate Education  
**Subject:** Support of SB 238

My name is Angie Fraker and I live in the MatSu Valley  
I support SB 238. It needs to be passed.

I want to talk to you about censorship and government overreach, about community, and about taxes. I'm quoting Kelly Armstrong the Governor of North Dakota, by saying that this or any proposal to censor books and materials at public libraries "represents a misguided attempt to legislate morality through overreach and censorship."

This issue of government overreach is more far reaching than the library as certain people have been constantly attempting, and in many cases succeeding, to impose censorship in the name of morality, when in reality they want to impose uniformity and ignorance. These people and their so-called morality have been eroding our nation and what it should stand for with their unwillingness to allow other people to have differing opinions and morals. This is the crux of the issue before us today.

Book banners say that they are upholding a community standard, but that standard doesn't actually exist. It's a false standard of a loud, belligerent, small group of people who are not the community of Alaska. And while they are part of the community they are not the whole community.

All of us who live here are the community standard, and, as our community contains many different beliefs, and groups of people, that standard is far more complex than you are making it out to be. Alaska is not some homogeneous blob of a community.

Book bans are religious ideology cloaked in the idea that tax money shouldn't be spent on certain materials. In reality, they are attempting to censor the public's ability to have access to materials just because they want to enforce the personal morality of a small but extremely loud minority.

I know this because I am part of this community, my friends and my family are part of this community. The community standards that book banners want to impose due to some made up tax issue do not exist. Tax dollars are spent on all kinds of materials that I find objectionable in the library but I just don't check them out. The library is for all of us, it exposes us to different cultures, it allows us to see ourselves in different experiences, it allows us to have fun. It's also an invaluable tool for children to learn about themselves as well. If parents are worried that their kid will be exposed to something they object to then maybe they should be better parents. My parents, deeply devout Christians, working two jobs to make ends meet, would take the time to go over reading material and to have age appropriate discussions with me regarding what may, or may not be appropriate for me.

Because of this I knew that I could go to them any time I had questions and I often did. And if someone is worried about what teenagers might read, I'm very certain that high school topics of conversation have not changed that much since I graduated.  
I support our librarians and libraries and support this bill.

Angie Fraker

## Michael Mason

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**From:** Annette Reese <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 3, 2026 1:52 PM  
**To:** Senate Education  
**Subject:** SB 238

To Whom it may Concern,

My name is Mrs. Annette Reese and I live in the greater Seward Area in the Kenai Peninsula Borough. I am a mother, grandmother, and great-grand mother of children born, raised and living in the great state of Alaska.

I am strongly opposed to SB238!

Everyday I pray for the health and education of my children, their children and their children's children. They live in Seward, Fairbanks, Valdez, and Wasilla.

There are struggles in each of these communities and abroad for the well being of our merging generations. It is the parents' responsibility to monitor what our children are allowed to view and experience at appropriate times in their lives not the public educational system or public Library systems of our state without parental control.

I do know that in Seward the influx of massive withdrawal from public schools into homeschool systems is because of what is being promoted in our local schools that are contrary to the parents' belief system. If SB238 goes through it will only make the divide greater not bring a coming together for the good of our community.

My dear friend and mother of a 4th grade daughter in Seward public school attendance and an advocate for the public library went to get her minor, a 10 year old her own library card. She was told that her daughter could get a card without her and gave her an application for such. This was a policy that was not published on the website and my friend was completely taken back by this development. She pushed back after she did research and this application was taken down. I believe the SB238 is part of this whole scheme to disenfranchise engaged parents.

Also our Seward Public Library sponsored a Banned Book Reading Challenge that didn't just stay in the Library but published flyers at the Middle School and Highschool for promotion of the ideology within those books. Banned books are banned for a reason! I believe SB238 must not go through giving protection to the librarians and officials that are promoting sexualizing our children. This is a travesty for our city, state, and nation in my opinion.

Thank you for your opposition to SB238.

Thank you for your time.

Mrs. Annette Reese 03/02/2026

Mother of Alaskan grown children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren and a friend and advocate for our parents and their children.

## Michael Mason

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**From:** Bart Elhard <b[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 2, 2026 10:59 AM  
**To:** Senate Education  
**Subject:** SB 238

I am writing this message as a concerned parent in Seward Alaska. How have we gotten to this point? Within the last year our community library has been pushing the top 10 banned books on our youth. They have tried to draw children through posting flyers at our schools to come and check out these books that were on display. They even tried pushing a non-parental consent form to obtain a library card. I am not so much concerned for my children as I have kept them aware of this topic, but for some children who may not have proper guidance I would hope we hold accountable staff at a community library for pushing woke and sexually explicit books that have been banned around our nation. Please put the children first when choosing how to debate this topic. Remember you work for the people and the people are watching!!!

## Michael Mason

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**From:** Belle Merritt [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Monday, March 2, 2026 8:02 AM  
**To:** Jenna Colquhoun; Senate Education; Sen. Scott Kawasaki  
**Subject:** Support of SB 238

My name is Belle Merritt, I live in Palmer, Alaska, and I'm writing in support of SB 238. Thank you to those who brought forward this much-needed legislation that supports libraries and our freedom to read. Here in the Mat-Su Valley, the effort to ban books is a real thing, and we need this legislation to protect our libraries, library staff and our right to read what we choose. I've been to Mat-Su Borough Assembly meetings where those advocating for book bans personally and in public call those in support of libraries "pedophiles" and "groomers." I've heard from library staff who have been called the same while they are at work. I've attended Borough library advisory board meetings where the members have said openly their intent is to prevent Alaskan adults from reading material they don't approve of. These attacks on our libraries, library workers and volunteers and our right to read need to stop. Please pass SB 238.

Thank you,  
Belle Merritt  
907-355-3193

**Michael Mason**

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**From:** BETSY WOODIN <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 2, 2026 1:17 PM  
**To:** Senate Education  
**Subject:** Freedom to Read

As a resident of the Mat-Su Borough I'm writing in support of Senate Bill SB238. Please support our libraries and the Freedom to Read. Elsbeth Woodin, Wasilla AK

## Michael Mason

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**From:** Bryan Carson [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 3, 2026 12:06 PM  
**To:** Senate Education; Sen. Scott Kawasaki  
**Subject:** Comment in favor of SB238 and suggestion for amended language

Good afternoon,

My name is Dr. Bryan Carson. I live in Fairbanks, and I am representing myself. I have a law degree, am a member of the Kentucky Bar Association (license number 84075), and have a doctorate in Higher Education Leadership & Policy. In addition, I wrote a book entitled "The Law of Libraries and Archives," published by Scarecrow Press in 2007. I am strongly in favor of SB 238, sponsored by Senator Kawasaki. I will, though, suggest two changes to the text of the bill.

First, I believe that the suggestion of changing the language of "commissioner" should be amended to read "Director of Libraries, Archives, and Museums." This ensures that the person who works with this policy is educated in the field. My doctorate in education does not prepare me to understand library science; only a Master's degree in library science would do that. Thus, I recommend that the model policy be established by the "Director of Libraries, Archives, and Museums."

The second part I believe needs to be addressed is the provision stating that review of a specific library item for reconsideration should be limited to "an individual who has used the services of the public library in the past five years and who resides in the public library's designated service area . . . ." The phrase "has used the services" is both underinclusive and overly vague, and could cause a court to strike the statute.

As a lawyer, educator, and author who has written in education and library law, I am unsure what this term means in this context. Does it mean "Checked out a book," "walked in the door," or "used the WiFi in the parking lot?" My suggestion is to use the following language instead: *"A Request for reconsideration of materials shall only be made by an Individual who (1) holds a current and valid membership card with that specific library which was issued no less than one year but no more than five years prior to the request, and (2) currently resides within that public library's service area."*

Thank you for your attention to my concern about the language. This bill is very good, but a few minor changes will help make it even better. Please let me know if I can answer any questions for you.

Dr. Bryan M. Carson  
Kentucky Bar Number 84075  
1028 Dogwood St. #402  
Fairbanks, Alaska 99709

270-799-4581 (mobile)  
[bryan.m.carson@gmail.com](mailto:bryan.m.carson@gmail.com)

## Michael Mason

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**From:** Claire McKay <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 2, 2026 2:47 PM  
**To:** Senate Education  
**Subject:** Support and comments for SB238

Good afternoon,

I am writing today to express my, and my family's, vehement support for SB238 and the protections it provides the freedoms we hold dear and the staff who work hard to support a core institution of a learned society.

This bill is written so as to put into effect at State level protections that are standard practice in many places, but yet are intentionally being targeted by a small group of individuals abusing the term "child safety". SB 238 protects librarians and staff from becoming targets of a baseless campaign to harass employees of local government as well as codifies and protects existing library curating policies.

Libraries are designed to be a collection reflective of the community, to include a vast array of materials and viewpoints reflective of the diverse and varied members of the community itself. A common rhetoric of opponents of the freedom to read is that there are materials present aimed at adults that are dispensed to children, however that could not be further from the truth. A collection is not a curriculum, it is not required reading or a dispensation. In actuality, protecting the freedom to read is a concrete expression of parental rights'. Parents have the right and responsibility to guide their children and teach them as they choose, that responsibility does not fall on public library staff. A parent has the right and responsibility to expose their child to ideas and material at times they deign age-appropriate, it is not the public library's job to be sanitized to meet the restrictions of being entirely age-appropriate for children.

The presence of materials aimed at adults is not equivilant to distribution to minors. The adult section is just that, and contains adult materials and topics for adults. While this is common practice, opponents of the freedom to read waste government time and money baselessly proposing that this indicates an intention to hurt children. As a parent of a young child I can assure you, library staff work hard to ensure that parents are armed with access and knowledge to guide their children, but that ultimately it is my responsibility. The sign of an educated and intelligent society is a well stocked library that does not cater to a specific viewpoint or ideology, or restrict additions based on personal preference. This bill ensures that will be codified state wide and protect library staff from harassment and abuse while they work to provide a vital service to the community.

As we face shortages and school closures and dwindling resources for our community's education, it's of the utmost importance that we show our support for libraries and those who staff them. Now more than ever libraries are in demand by the community, and protecting the freedom to read is critical. I urge you in the strongest possible terms to pass this bill, protect your communities, their libraries, and library staff, and protect the freedom for all to read regardless of class or creed.

Thank you so much for your time.

Sincerely,



## Michael Mason

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**From:** david beistel <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 2, 2026 12:02 PM  
**To:** Senate Education

I do not support SB238 and will vote against my representative should they vote for this obscene bill.

David Beistel  
North Pole

## Michael Mason

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**From:** Davin Helkenberg <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 3, 2026 12:34 PM  
**To:** Senate Education  
**Subject:** Testimony for SB 238

Senate Education Committee,

My name is Davin Helkenberg, I am from Fairbanks, Alaska, and I am representing myself. I am writing in support of SB 238, sponsored by Senator Kawasaki.

I believe this bill is an important step in protecting the First Amendment rights of all Alaskans. The outlined materials selection and reconsideration policies reflect standard library practice, yet not all Alaska libraries currently have these policies in place. Without strong policies, libraries can become vulnerable to unlawful (and costly) actions that infringe on constitutional rights.

SB 238 would also provide important protections for public employees, some of whom are currently facing intimidation in the course of their work. Alaska libraries already struggle with recruitment and retention, and many library workers are now looking to local policies and state legislation as indicators of whether their workplace will be safe/unsafe.

I understand you are also taking suggestions for amendments. I would like to propose two changes:

1. The language of *commissioner* be changed to *Director of Libraries, Archives, and Museums* to ensure this role includes a background in libraries.
2. The language in **Sec. 14.56.450 (6) (A)** be changed to *an individual who is a card holder*, which would allow public libraries to more easily determine the use of services and would be inclusive of residents in the service area.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Dr. Davin Helkenberg, PhD LIS, MLIS

## Michael Mason

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**From:** Dawn Maness [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Monday, March 2, 2026 9:00 AM  
**To:** Senate Education  
**Subject:** Vote NO on SB 238

Dear Senators,  
Please vote against SB 238. Librarians should not get a pass on GROOMING children! It is absolutely disgusting that librarians think it's OK to give young children pornography! They should be jailed for that!

The enticement of a minor, contributing to the delinquency of a minor, and distribution of indecent material to minors IS ALREADY ILLEGAL!

Vote NO on SB 238!

Concerned, Seward resident,  
Dawn Maness RN  
Sent from my iPhone

## Michael Mason

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**From:** Denis Gardella <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 2, 2026 8:42 PM  
**To:** Senate Education  
**Subject:** SB 238

Hello Ed. Committee Members,

As bad as it is to allow librarians to break the law and to couch the defence of such an act in glowing terms like "freedom to read", "protecting our values", "freedom to choose", not "banning books ". Using "Fahrenheit 451", "Diary of Anne Frank," and "Brave New World" as examples of what conservative minded people are (supposedly) doing to young minds by opposing such trash as the porn found in public school libraries, is to put it very mildly, disingenuous. It borders on lying! Remember one thing: We are talking about a state that spends right near the top expenditure for public schooling among the 50 states, but gets the WORST, if not right next to the WORST results! Did you get that? Kids can't read or do math for the most part, and I do mean the most part. Less than 33% proficiency!

Where is our shame!

And we're trying to protect librarians from the consequences of spreading porn? That's what's important to us? Don't you all see the exodus to Homeschool and other schools? It's growing in record numbers while public school enrollment is shrinking. I know of 16 states that have some form of school choice where taxpayer money follows the student. Didn't you see ,during the Biden administration, all the irate parents at school board meetings across the country lashing out at school board members for the trash they'd been hiding from parents and then getting kicked out of public meetings for exposing it? Being called "domestic terrorists"? Boys posing as girls in girl's locker rooms and bathrooms, raping (real) girls? What do you need to see this? What is it going to take? You know, there's a lot of angry people out here that have little-to -no trust in government anymore. I can't blame them. Do NOT let this SB238 out of committee.

Denis Gardella

## Michael Mason

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**From:** desiree cronin <desireecronin@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 2, 2026 11:48 AM  
**To:** Senate Education  
**Subject:** SB 238

This is on opposition to this bill.  
Sent from my iPhone

## Michael Mason

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**From:** Diane Jewkes <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 2, 2026 12:44 PM  
**To:** Senate Education  
**Subject:** Sb238

We oppose this bill. Do not pass it.

Diane or Lenny

## Michael Mason

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**From:** Donald Trometter [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Monday, March 2, 2026 11:36 AM  
**To:** Senate Education  
**Subject:** SB238

Dear Committee,

Please vote NO on SB238.

Sincerely,  
Donald Trometter  
North Pole



Virus-free. [www.avast.com](http://www.avast.com)

## Michael Mason

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**From:** Aileen Cotter [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 2, 2026 12:14 PM  
**To:** Senate Education  
**Subject:** Librarians SB283

State of Alaska constituents do not want hired help distributing to our children what they think is best for them to read which would influence their behavior to others that is our job! Just like politics and religion they should keep their opinions to themselves or find another job. Simple question simple answer get your parents to help you!

Vote NO SB283  
Ella Cotter  
NP Alaska  
Sent from my iPad

**Michael Mason**

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**From:** Erin Bendle [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 2, 2026 1:18 PM  
**To:** Senate Education  
**Subject:** Senate Bill 238

Good afternoon!

I am a lifelong Alaskan and a resident of the Mat-Su Borough, and I'm writing in support of Senate Bill SB238. Please support our libraries and the Freedom to Read.

Thank you!

Erin Bendle (907-982-9689)

**Michael Mason**

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**From:** Geraldine Taylor <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 2, 2026 1:24 PM  
**To:** Senate Education  
**Subject:** Senate Bill SB238.

As a resident of the Mat-Su Borough I'm writing in support of Senate Bill SB238. Please support our libraries and the Freedom to Read.

Sincerely,

Geraldine Taylor

**Greetings,**

**I'm writing in support of SB238 An Act Relating to Library Materials**

My name is Heidi Deadmond. I'm from Palmer, representing myself. I'm a Christian and a conservative. I homeschooled my children through high school, and I have over 20 years experience in public library service.

**SB238 preserves freedom foundational viewpoint neutrality, protects community service professionals from threats and harassment, and establishes a statewide understanding of standard legal and time tested best practices.**

**This bill does not shield anyone from prosecution for actual criminal intent to harm children. It simply codifies professional standards and requirements.**

**The purpose of this letter is to provide a simplified overview of how public libraries work to dispel circulating rumors and wildly incorrect assumptions.**

### ***Foundation:***

**Information and education professionals are bound by ethics, laws, policies, and procedures.**

**Library principles have been developed, practiced, and legally tested in this country for over 200 years. They're designed to protect our constitutional freedom by operating public libraries in a politically, socially, and economically neutral manner by providing access to information for the widest range of viewpoints, while adhering to standards regarding legally obscene material.**

### ***Curation:***

**Libraries are about people. The books on the shelf in your library are a reflection of the people in your community.**

**Collections are curated using multi-faceted objective data points to meet local user interest and demand.**

- 1. Library users are the primary catalyst for the kinds of materials in their community's library, based on what they're checking out.**
- 2. Librarians use reports and statistics generated by library usage, person to person conversations, hold requests, suggested purchases, best seller lists, and other data to fill the collection.**
- 3. Librarians are trained to remain viewpoint neutral when selecting materials.**
- 4. Libraries recognize the Miller Ginsberg test, established by the Supreme Court of the United States, as the administrative standard for evaluating materials for legal obscenity.**

### ***Intent vs Access:***

**Laws protecting children are designed to prosecute premeditated malicious action with the intent to violate a child.**

**These laws were never meant to prosecute professionals over whether the *possibility exists* that a child might stumble upon materials that may not be appropriate for their age.**

**Performing the regular duties of an information centric profession does not equal intent to harm children.**

### ***Parental Rights:***

**Librarians cannot act in place of parents.**

**Current assertions say librarians are attempting to usurp parental rights. This is a lie from the same people who accuse librarians of not doing enough to manage a child's use of the library.**

**Librarians champion parental rights. We want parents to use libraries with their children, ask questions, request books, attend programs, and engage in lifelong literacy and learning. Librarians want to work WITH and support parents and children to suit their family's needs.**

### ***Book Challenges:***

**This is the process for the public to address concerns.**

- 1. A book challenge is filed by a citizen.**

- Every public library has, or should have, a Reconsideration of Materials policy and procedure in place.
- 2. The item is evaluated by trained professionals who measure it against objective criteria.**
- This includes SCOTUS' Miller test, and the collection development policy.
- 3. There are 3 possible outcomes:**
- **The material is determined to be appropriately placed and will remain in the library.**
    - The placement of a book in the library is primarily determined by objective criteria, and to a lesser degree by the librarian's knowledge of their community's preferences, and where their patrons would typically look for that book.
  - **The material meets the collection development qualifications to be relocated to another area.**
    - This typically applies to a series where the characters' age and situations become more mature as the series progresses. The book placement will be reevaluated, using collection development criteria, and may need to be split between 2 collections to match patron interests, or all the books may move to the collection suited for more mature interests.
  - **The material meets the qualifications to be removed from the library collection.**
    - Books can be removed from the collection based on standardized library procedures using CREW (Continuous Review, Evaluation, and Weeding) guidelines.
    - SCOTUS, and other court precedents do not allow removal of books based ONLY on their ideological, political, or religious objection to the content of the book.

**Good faith book challenges are welcomed by librarians. We want to hear what concerns our patrons to better understand their needs, have the opportunity to educate, encourage, and expand their understanding of how libraries work, and offer resources tailored to their interests. In my experience, good faith book challenges are rare, and all have been resolved in one conversation with the Library Director.**

**A bad faith book challenge is a demand to censor. Bad faith challenges include public denigration and defamation of librarians, multiple attempts to have librarians arrested or fired, political pressure to rewrite library policies and local government ordinances to allow ideological censoring, physical assault and intimidation, and the classic manipulation tactic DARVO - Deny, Attack, Reverse Victim and Offender. This is what librarians in the MatSu Valley have been dealing with for the last 3 years.**

## *Censoring:*

**Librarians cannot remove or refuse to add materials based only on an ideological viewpoint objection to the content of the material.**

- That is the very definition of censoring.
- [Merriam-Webster.com](https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/censor) transitive verb: “to suppress or delete as objectionable”

**Librarians cannot remove or restrict access to select materials in public libraries based on the *possibility* that a child may see or read something that is not appropriate for their age.**

- This qualifies as book banning.
- [Merriam-Webster.com](https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/censor) transitive verb: “to prohibit especially by legal means; also : to prohibit the use, performance, or distribution of

**Demands to censor do not, cannot dictate library standards for viewpoint neutrality, which is the very foundation of freedom to access information and materials in public libraries.**

**Agitators skew public perception by applying emotionally triggering labels and unrelated controversial social topics to staff and materials, and quote cherry picked court opinions or entirely misinterpret rulings in an effort to control library collections through political pressure and public outcry. This is a demand to censor.**

## *Perspective:*

**Reframe this issue for a moment.**

**If a general contractor is building a house they understand the entire process, including laws, codes, permits, engineering, time constraints, budgeting, managing subcontractors, etc.**

**The homeowner is paying for the home. They make aesthetic and practical use choices that best suit their family, but they don't dictate where the load bearing walls are built, how far the well is from the septic, or how the electrical panel is installed. The technical aspects are managed by the professionals hired to provide the home building services.**

**Libraries work the same way. Librarians are educated, experienced, and invested in maintaining the load bearing walls of freedom in our society.**

**One of the most powerful tactics to destabilize a country is to control information. Libraries, schools, and museums each play a critical role in**

**providing free access to information, opportunities for education, and preserving our history.**

***Conclusion:***

**Agitators use the narrowest ideologically aligned definitions of triggering buzz words to advance a power and control agenda, turning libraries into political battlefields.**

**Library, school, and museum staff must not continue to be subjected to harassment, professional and personal defamation, political violence, and threats of prosecution for providing knowledge and materials to the public in good faith.**

**SB238 preserves our foundations of freedom, supports competent compassionate professionals serving families in their communities, and protects valuable efficient standard library practices from pernicious political agendas.**

**I urge you to pass SB238.**

**Sincerely,  
Heidi Deadmond**

**[Redacted Signature]**

(ZERO% AI generated or edited.)

## Michael Mason

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**From:** hilda martin [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 2, 2026 10:07 AM  
**To:** Senate Education  
**Subject:** SB238

Dear [Recipient Name],

I am writing to formally express my strong opposition to the proposed bill regarding the protection of librarians and school officials in relation to sexually explicit or age-inappropriate materials.

I believe that librarians and school officials should be held fully accountable for providing such materials—including photos, reading materials, movies, and documentaries—to children in both our tax-funded and private schools here in the state of Alaska. I am firmly against any protections that would shield these individuals from the consequences of introducing such content to students.

I urge you to consider these concerns and the importance of accountability in our educational system.

Sincerely,

Hilda Martin

**Michael Mason**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 28, 2026 10:56 PM  
**To:** Sen. Jesse Bjorkman  
**Subject:** SB238

Feb. 28, 2026

Ref: SB 238 Kawasaki bill to shield librarians  
[Senate.Education](#)

Standing Committee  
Dear Governing Body:

I am vehemently opposed to this bill. I am appalled that a bill of this magnitude would even come before a group of adults proclaiming to protect children.

Senator Scott Kawasaki is aware of the criminal behavior by librarians, museum employees, and governing bodies who distribute controversial or legally questionable material.

In current law, this is criminal behavior and action. Hence, asking for criminal immunity for the museums, school and public librarians, and governing bodies.

In Sen. Kawasaki's opening paragraph of his Sponsor Statement letter says it all: "an act relating to the access to library material; and relating to affirmative defenses to the offenses of enticement of a minor, contributing to the delinquency of a minor, and distribution of indecent material to minors". The act of taking criminal intent and action to complete lawlessness by blanket immunity for those actions.

Paragraph four of the sponsor statement states: SB238 also provides protection to librarians and school employees who may be unfairly targeted by individuals acting in bad faith who would seek to have them fired or even imprisoned for merely allowing a library patron to

freely check out material. Parents and concerned citizens are not “bad actors”. We have a right to protect our children from sexually explicit material, and a duty to protect all young minds.

Parents are concerned about what their children are exposed to at public schools and school libraries. Schools are supposed to be a safe, protected institution of learning. Parents are not the criminals here.

At the bottom of his sponsor statement, Sen Kawasaki states: SB238 ensures there is a process to ensure our libraries are filled with materials of serious literary, artistic, political, or scientific value.

This bill is not about literary, artistic, political, or scientific books. This bill specifically allows people in authority over children to display, encourage, and suggest, sexually explicit pornographic books. Some books are so sexually explicit they can't be read out loud, or shown at school board meetings. Books are not benign, they shape a child's imagination. These young people could not walk into a store and buy this type of a book without being at least 18 years old. And yet, the school commits criminal action on school property every day, by displaying sexually explicit material and encourages reading of this smut.

There was a time, not so long ago, any place of business that sold magazines with questionable covers in public, had to have a black cover, or turn the back of magazine out to the public.

Magazines like Cosmopolitan, People Magazine, Glamour and Victoria's Secret catalogues. The outside COVERS of those magazines was considered too risqué for public view.

Distributing illicit sexual material to under-age children is illegal in the State of Alaska. Period!

There is no excuse, no rationalization, no justification, no exemptions for favored parties. Period!

In reading SB 238, by the language used, shows attorneys have been involved from the beginning (AG Treg Taylor letter dated November, 16, 2023). Why is the public just now finding

out about blanket immunity for librarians, museum workers and other governing bodies?

This is not book banning, this is protecting youth from bad actors, groomers and sexually criminal intent.

Please do not pass SB 238.

Sincerely,  
Holly Buzby

Some commonly cited books include:

"Looking for Alaska" by John Green (challenged for sexual content and language).

"The Bluest Eye" by Toni Morrison (challenged for depictions of child sexual abuse and trauma).

"This Book Is Gay" by Juno Dawson (criticized for explicit discussions of sexual practices, including oral sex).

"Let's Talk About It" by Erika Moen (described as encouraging minors to create and share explicit images).

"Gender Queer" by Maia Kobabe – targeted for explicit illustrations and discussions of gender and sexuality.

## Michael Mason

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**From:** Holly Dean [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 3, 2026 10:03 AM  
**To:** Senate Education  
**Cc:** Sen. Scott Kawasaki  
**Subject:** Support of SB238

Dear Senate Education Committee,

My name is Holly Dean, I am from Fairbanks, Alaska, and am representing myself.

I am writing in strong support of SB 238, sponsored by Senator Kawasaki. I would, however, like to echo other's testimonials suggesting that where the title "commissioner" appears, should be amended to read Director of Libraries, Archives, and Museums.

This change will ensure that policy is modeled by an educated authority in the field rather than a political appointee who might not have a background in library material curation.

Thank you for your civic commitment.

Sincerely,  
Holly

**From:** Irene Quednow [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 28, 2026 8:28 PM  
**To:** Senate Education  
**Subject:** Objection to SB238

Dear Senators,

I strongly oppose bill 238 that would protect librarians from consequences of making sexually explicit material readily, and without parental consent, available to minors. Instead of protecting librarians who think this is ok, we should remove them because they are a danger to the wellbeing of our children.

It is against the law to expose minors to explicit sexual content:

## **"Alaska Statutes Title 11. Criminal Law § 11.61.128. Distribution of indecent material to minors**

Current as of January 01, 2025 | Updated by [Findlaw Staff](#)

(a) A person commits the crime of distribution of indecent material to minors if

(1) the person, being 18 years of age or older, intentionally distributes or possesses with intent to distribute any material described in (2) and (3) of this subsection to either

(A) a child that the person knows is under 16 years of age; or

(B) another person that the person believes is a child under 16 years of age;

(2) the person knows that the material depicts the following actual or simulated conduct:

(A) sexual penetration;

(B) the lewd touching of a person's genitals, anus, or female breast;

(C) masturbation;

(D) bestiality;

(E) the lewd exhibition of a person's genitals, anus, or female breast; or

(F) sexual masochism or sadism; and

(3) the material is harmful to minors.

(b) In this section, it is not a defense that the victim was not actually under 16 years of age.

(c) In this section, "harmful to minors" means

(1) the average individual, applying contemporary community standards, would find that the material, taken as a whole, appeals to the prurient interest in sex for persons under 16 years of age;

(2) a reasonable person would find that the material, taken as a whole, lacks serious literary, artistic, educational, political, or scientific value for persons under 16 years of age; and

(3) the material depicts actual or simulated conduct in a way that is patently offensive to the prevailing standards in the adult community as a whole with respect to what is suitable for persons under 16 years of age.

(d) Except as provided in (e) of this section, distribution of indecent material to minors is a class C felony.

(e) Distribution of indecent material to minors is a class B felony if the defendant was, at the time of the offense, required to register as a sex offender or child kidnapper under AS 12.63 or a similar law of another jurisdiction."

And people who do so, including librarians, should be prosecuted to the full extend of the law.

Irene Quednow

"The world needs men (and women) who will not be bought or sold. Men (and women) who in their inmost souls are true and honest. Men (and women) who do not fear to call sin by its right name. Men (and women) whose conscience is true to duty. Men (and women) who will stand for what is right though the heavens fall." Ellen Gould White (words in parenthesis added by myself)

Sent from [Proton Mail](#) for iOS.

## Michael Mason

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**From:** LIO Valdez  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 5, 2026 1:53 PM  
**To:** Senate Education  
**Cc:** jaranda\_pols@hotmail.com  
**Subject:** Sb 238 - Citizen Testimony - Opposed

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**From:** jaranda Splechter [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 2, 2026 4:42 PM  
**To:** LIO Valdez [Lio.Valdez@akleg.gov](mailto:Lio.Valdez@akleg.gov) – Forwarding to Senate Education – Citizen Testimony SB 238  
**Subject:** SB 238

### Statement in Opposition to SB 238

Regarding Public Library Protections and Access to Materials  
Alaska State Legislature

I, Jaranda Splechter am writing to express my opposition to SB 238

I do not support legislation that shields librarians from accountability when providing access to sexually explicit or ideologically driven materials to minors in public libraries. Public libraries are taxpayer-funded institutions that serve families and children of all ages, including preschoolers. With that responsibility should come reasonable safeguards regarding age-appropriate content.

I am especially concerned about materials that introduce concepts related to gender identity and sexual orientation to very young children. In my view, preschool and early elementary-aged children are not developmentally prepared to process complex topics related to sexuality and gender ideology. Parents—not government institutions—should determine when and how these subjects are introduced.

Books available at the Valdez Consortium Library that concern me include:

- When Aidan Became a Brother
- And Tango Makes Three
- Julian Is a Mermaid
- They, She, He, Me: Free to Be!
- Red: A Crayon's Story
- This Book Is Gay

In particular, This Book Is Gay contains explicit sexual content, including graphic discussions of sexual acts and instruction that many parents would consider inappropriate for minors. While adults have the right to access such materials, I believe there should be stricter boundaries when it comes to children's access in publicly funded spaces. My opposition is not about targeting individuals, but about protecting children and preserving parental rights. I believe SB 238 reduces local community control and parental oversight by prioritizing institutional immunity over accountability.

I urge lawmakers to reconsider this legislation and instead pursue policies that:

- Strengthen parental involvement.
- Ensure age-appropriate content standards for minors.

- And maintain community input regarding public library collections.
- Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,  
Jaranda Splechter  
Valdez, Alaska

**Michael Mason**

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**From:** J Go [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 2, 2026 5:27 PM  
**To:** Senate Education  
**Subject:** SENATE BILL NO. 238, comment

Senate Education Committee,

My name is Jillian Gold, I am from Cordova, Alaska, and am representing myself.

I am writing in strong support of SB 238, sponsored by Senator Kawasaki. I will, though, echo testimonials I heard today suggesting that where the language *commissioner* appears, should be amended to read *Director of Libraries, Archives, and Museums*.

This change will ensure that policy is modeled by an educated authority in the field rather than a political appointee who might not have a background in library material curation.

Thank you for your civic commitment.

## Michael Mason

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**From:** Joan Corr [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 2, 2026 7:09 PM  
**To:** Senate Education  
**Subject:** Vote no on SB 238

March 2, 2026

To the Senate Education committee and all others who deal with SB 238:

I am strongly opposed to this bill. How can adults who are in charge of legislation, and claim they want to protect children, even consider this bill? We already have a bill that says distributing illicit sexual material to underage children is illegal.

Some teachers and librarians are good and do want the best for children. We also have those who have an ideological stand to try to corrupt little ones. Why would we have books for kindergarteners that talk about changing sex or pushing two mommies or two daddies for their parents. People talk about freedom of speech and how important it was to our forefathers. Our forefathers wouldn't have put up with some of the smut that is in our school libraries, and books suggested for "supplemental reading" in our reading programs. This is not book banning! This is protecting our youth!

We cannot read this material at our school board meetings or show the pictures because bad language and pornography is not allowed, but it is foisted on our children in the schools and in the curriculum.

I was at a meeting where a lady called us and reported that her school principal and the town librarian were working together to emphasize these immoral books, some describing despicable sex acts. The principal allowed fliers to be put on the bulletin boards advertising the display of books. The fliers were illegal. They didn't have the school name and permission on them. This mother was in tears. She complained to the head of the library board, who agreed with her, and the librarian and principal did not listen to the head of the board, but went on with their own plans. It is situations like this that infuriate the public.

Over 30% of the families on the Kenai Peninsula are home schooling now, and I wouldn't be surprised if the numbers keep growing.

And for Kawasaki to state that "...our libraries are filled with materials of serious literary, artistic, political, or scientific value", does not make sense. The books that are questioned are none of these things. These horrible books are what we want in our children's imaginations? The sexually explicit and deviant behavior in these books is just smut, smut, smut.

And the testimony said that we still have local control? When there's a state law passed? Sounds to me like government rule takes precedence over parental rights. There should be some decency involved. This wouldn't have been a problem 50 years ago. People wouldn't have even thought to write such trash and put it in our schools and libraries. And that people are accepting of it is revolting.

Sincerely,  
Joan Corr

## Michael Mason

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**From:** Julie Endle <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 2, 2026 4:03 PM  
**To:** Senate Education  
**Subject:** Written Testimony SB 238

Good Afternoon,

I am writing to come against SB 238. I am representing myself even though I am on the MSB Library Board.

This bill opens the door to many concerns:

1. Will the “Librarian” read the book themselves in order to make a sound judgment about a book, and not just assume the book is good because the novel got good reviews. Scientific value is NOT when there are graphics pictures in a book with a person holding a cell-phone to their private parts.
2. A parent who moves to a city and patrons the library, will not have a say because they haven’t lived there for five years, this is completely wrong. This infringes on their Freedom Of Speech!
3. Did the Freedom to Read Collation come to the Senator to actually write the bill?

Thank you for your time.

Julie Endle

## Michael Mason

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**From:** karen jensen [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 2, 2026 5:40 PM  
**To:** Senate Education  
**Subject:** testimony of support for SB238  
**Attachments:** Not Censorship But Selection by Lester Asheim.pdf; One Un-American Act by Justice William O Douglas.pdf

Testimony in favor of SB 238 Alaska Freedom to Read Act

*Below is my oral testimony given during your public hearing today, March 2, 2026. I've added a couple of comments, highlighted below, as well as two attachments with citations that might help illustrate the issues, especially Lester Asheim's classic essay on censorship or selection, which all professional librarians read and debate at some point during their 2-year Master's Degree education. One of the Senate Education Committee members seemed concerned about the bill making librarians responsible for selection, when in fact, that is the core of our job. Asheim's essay helps frame that discussion further. This bill would actually protect librarians in doing that job, while also protecting readers' access to content.*

Hello I'm Karen Jensen. My testimony is my own as a 30+ year professional librarian, and I do not speak on behalf of my employer. I ask you to support this important bill.

If you haven't already had a chance to see the film on PBS, The Librarians, I urge you to do so. The film highlights the very real threats to libraries and librarians from an anti-library, anti-education minority that wants to limit Americans' access to information. These incidents and this movement against librarians shows the need for this bill in Alaska.

This bill protects readers, who want to choose from a wide variety of perspectives, beliefs, subjects, and content, not limited to one narrow world view. It protects adult and young adult readers from having their reading choices restricted to only a first-grade level book selection. It also protects the public's right to challenge a book, by ensuring that a process is in place that will be fair in evaluating each work on its own merits, using precedents in law and court findings.

Parents who worry about their children's reading and internet choices should work with teachers and librarians to find content they deem suitable for their own children. They should not try to dictate what other people's children, or what any adult, can read. Most importantly, parents have the responsibility of making sure their children are able to read, something this bill doesn't address, but libraries definitely help with! Instead of acting out of fear, parents need to get involved with their children's education.

This bill is a good start in the right direction, but needs some amendments. First the good:

- The policy minimums are excellent
- The bill generally preserves local control and minimizes outsider influence
- The bill calls on librarians and others to act in good faith
- The bill allows for citizens to make appeals for reconsideration on a case by case basis

However:

- Creating, editing, updating and promulgation of the model policy should be the work of the State Librarian, or another entity within the State Library, rather than a political appointee
- Such a person should be an experienced librarian, someone who understands the difference between selection and censorship, and who understands how to manage the legitimate concerns of some citizens alongside the rights of everyone else to choose what they read.

I urge you to support this bill to preserve our libraries and our freedom of speech. I'll end with a quote from Chief Justice William O. Douglas, who in his speech "The One Un-American Act" said, "Restriction of free thought and free speech is the most dangerous of all subversions. It is the one un-American act that could most easily defeat us."

Thank you for your time.  
Karen Jensen  
Fairbanks, Alaska

"The One Un-American Act", American Library Association, April 17, 2013  
<https://www.ala.org/bbooks/one-un-american-act> (Accessed March 2, 2026)

"Not Censorship But Selection", American Library Association, May 29, 2007  
<https://www.ala.org/advocacy/intfreedom/NotCensorshipButSelection> (Accessed March 2, 2026)

## Michael Mason

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**From:** KATHY J BOLLING [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 5, 2026 4:15 PM  
**To:** Senate Education  
**Cc:** Sen. Scott Kawasaki  
**Subject:** In support of SB 238

From: Kathy Bolling, Ketchikan:

I am writing solely as a private citizen in enthusiastic support of SB 238, sponsored by Senator Kawasaki.

As a parent and grandparent, may I suggest to you that in front of you is an opportunity to protect educators and librarians. SB238 will play an important part in a nationwide battle to uphold our constitutional rights that are being challenged by a minority of people who want to reduce or limit citizen and parental rights. Students are citizens.

In the case of *Tinker vs Des Moines Independent School District* 1965, In a 7-2 decision, the Supreme Court's majority ruled that neither students nor teachers "shed their constitutional rights to freedom of speech or expression at the schoolhouse gate."

You begin meetings pledging allegiance to the US flag and to the republic for which it stands. You took an oath to uphold the constitution. It is your responsibility to do so.

It is a library's responsibility to provide access to information in our representative democracy. It is patriotic work. When libraries and librarians are being challenged, it is a democratic institution that is being attacked.

There are no unprotected categories of speech in any of our libraries. There is no title that would flunk the Miller test. There is no pornography in our public or school libraries. May I point out that only a judge or jury can declare a work to be obscene after considering evidence presented as part of a trial.

*A parent may declare that they think a book is obscene and forbid their child from reading it, but that parent cannot decide for other people's children what is allowed or forbidden.*

Uphold our students' constitutional rights; if not you then who will?

## Michael Mason

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**From:** Kelly Salzwedel <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 27, 2026 10:20 AM  
**To:** Senate Education  
**Subject:** Quit shielding satanists

Shielding educators and librarians who teach g under confusion and sexual deviance to children is satanic. It defies a parental right to steer their child's moral upbringing. Do NOT pass this bill. This legislature is revealing itself to be in complete defiance of Alaskans, and come voting time WE WILL REMEMBER.

Sent from my iPhone

## Michael Mason

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**From:** Steve Rogers <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 2, 2026 1:37 PM  
**To:** Senate Education  
**Subject:** SB 238

Dear Committee Members:

I am a resident and registered voter in the Mat-Su Valley and I support the above bill.

Lila Rogers

[Yahoo Mail: Search, Organize, Conquer](#)

March 5, 2026

Alaska State Legislature  
Senate Education Committee  
120 4<sup>th</sup> Street  
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Senators:

I am writing in support of SB 238. As a resident of the Palmer, Alaska community for almost 50 years and having raised our children in this area, our earliest memories are of the Palmer Public Library. In recent years our library staff have been subjected to personal threats and false accusations regarding library materials. Some patrons have even gone so far as to physically remove a book from the shelf. Constant negative testimony regarding libraries and librarians has become the norm at our city council and borough assembly meetings. Most of this comes from people who never use the library.

According to the director of our library, the following criteria are used when selecting materials for the library. These criteria are taken from the library's Collection Development policy.

- The author's reputation and significance as a writer, or recognized award recipient.
- The publisher's reputation.
- Reviews from professional and popular media sources.
- The importance of subject matter to the collection.
- Availability of material in other libraries or in print.
- Timeliness or permanence of the book.
- Authoritativeness.
- Inclusion in standard bibliographies or indexes.
- Price.
- Demand.
- Format, including quality of binding, type, legibility, and illustrations.

In addition to these criteria, circulation data is analyzed before making purchases. Comparisons with other books by an author are made and how those books have circulated. If it is a new author, circulation data for comparable books in the same genre or on the same topic is assessed. Subject headings are searched to see how books on a topic have circulated, how many books on that topic already exist in the collection, and the age and accuracy of information in those existing books. It is a time-consuming process as

hundreds and hundreds of new releases are available each month, but the end result is a collection shaped by Palmer Public Library patrons.

This being said, having legislation that protects libraries, schools, and museum professionals from prosecution for doing their jobs in good faith is essential. It would also be helpful to codify foundational public and school library practices.

Given the fact that library professionals are trained and certified and have expertise in book selection, I would recommend that the State Librarian be the one to oversee the process for reviewing books that are challenged rather than the Commissioner of Education or a committee. It would be a relief to bring the continual negativity regarding libraries, that permeates all of our public meetings, to a halt.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mardene Collins".

Mardene Collins

President

Friends of the Palmer Public Library

## Michael Mason

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**From:** Mariko Kinikin <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 2, 2026 11:00 AM  
**To:** Senate Education; Sen. Scott Kawasaki  
**Subject:** library bill

Dear Senator Kawasaki and members of the Education Committee,

I am a school librarian, writing on my lunch break, in support of the library bill. I am an accomplished and well-rounded educator with multiple certifications, and I am retiring next year, even though I have a good 10-15 years left in me, because of the current climate surrounding libraries and librarians. (Don't even get me started on the defined benefit) I have been off of Facebook for a year now because of the hostility spewed towards librarians in the Fairbanks community Facebook pages. I am disgusted with the way we are maligned, questioned, doxxed, and lied about.

Legal protection for doing our job would go far in making library staff feel safe in their jobs. We often feel unsafe and insecure, both due to funding, and to public vitriol. As a transferred school employee (Ben Eielson Jr/Sr High in FNSBSD was closed) I inherited a library collection at a new site, 12,000 books which I did not purchase, but now had to answer for. Many districts also make the budgetary choice to employ paraprofessionals as the sole library worker, who have not undergone the Master's level education in curation and collection development that people think all librarians go through. This means that they may have not had as much access to the practice of curation and the advocacy experience needed to stand up for themselves in the face of very in-your-face groups like Moms for Liberty.

As a librarian, I read 79 books last year, and I have been a librarian for 10 years. Even if I only read exclusively teen books, there is no way I could read every book that we consider for the library. Instead, I rely on professional selection tools, such as TeachingBooks and School Library Journal, both of which are paid subscriptions (I am lucky enough that FNSBSD provides me with a subscription to both) and not all librarians have access through their district/borough. It scares me to think that some other organized hate group could decide that something that someone else put in the library 12 years ago means that I go to jail. It scares me that some enraged community member can decide that a book that I chose after professional selection tools list for grades 9-12 could turn around and say that it is pornographic. And even if they are wrong and I am exonerated, the stress, time, and public facing toll this would take might be too much to bear.

I have successfully defended books at the district level in front of parents, administrators, and community members. But that win came with staying up reading books all night, it came with testifying in front of people who mocked me, it came with seeing my name on Facebook, and it came with being scared to be out in my own community, and worst of all, it increases the temptation for soft censorship.

I cannot remain a school librarian if every book has the potential to get me fired and jailed. We have a robust policy, we have robust selection tools. As long as I am operating within the parameters of the collection development policies of my employer, I should not be subject to legal recourse. I became a teacher, and later a librarian, because I loved learning and I loved books and I loved helping students become more. But now I just do more worrying, more checking my back, more shirking away from my community, and more time practicing activism and being involved in policy. This is not teaching and this

is not librarianship. Remove threats and barriers so I can get back to the work I love, while I am still free to do it.

Thank you, Senator Kawasaki, for bringing forth the most personally meaningful piece of legislation. Just knowing that you see our struggle means the world to me. I feel seen, supported, and valued. We'll see if I continue to feel that way.

Respectfully,

Mariko Kinikin  
Librarian

## Michael Mason

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 2, 2026 1:10 PM  
**To:** Senate Education  
**Subject:** Support of SB238

To whom it may concern,

My name is Martha Grover. I'm a Mat-Su Valley resident and I'm writing in support of SB238.

I think librarians deserve protection from partisan politics and being used as scapegoats in censorship cases. Protect our libraries and librarians.

Thank you,  
Martha

Sent from [Proton Mail](#) for iOS.

## Michael Mason

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**From:** Melinda Dale <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 2, 2026 10:59 AM  
**To:** Jenna Colquhoun; Senate Education  
**Subject:** SB 238 Support

I live in Willow, part of the Matanuska Susitna Borough. SB 238 is necessary to protect our freedom to read in Alaska. I am living in a Borough with censorship of adult books and media encouraged and out of control.

Currently in the Valley, there is a Borough Library Board which consists of people who have been appointed by Mayor DeVries. This is how the Board has always been selected with the job of library advocacy. Under this mayor, it is made up of hand picked conservative folks who have been given the power to flag items in librarians' orders from 5 of the 7 Borough libraries. (Wasilla and Palmer are not included as they are city libraries.) Many of the flagged items are for adults. They often appear to censor materials based on their titles alone. While I cannot prove it, it seems that religious objections are one of the reasons. They are not required to read the books, watch the media they question, or even discuss their rationale for objecting. All they have to do is fill out a yes/no check sheet. None of them are librarians with the expertise to create an eclectic library collection with books/media to appeal to everyone.

This process is very flawed. There is already a policy in place to object to specific library materials. Jillian Morrissey, Community Development Director, does have the final authority over what may be ordered. There is no reason to involve this small group of people with their personal views of what is appropriate for readers in my community. The process also undermines the very librarians the Borough has hired for their expertise.

As an avid reader and library patron, I am very concerned that my freedom to read has been compromised. SB238 is a welcome and much needed step to protect our librarians and preserve our libraries that should include a variety of material. It has my full support!

Thank you,

Melinda Dale  
Willow Library Patron

## Michael Mason

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**From:** Mike Johndro [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 1, 2026 11:38 AM  
**To:** Senate Education  
**Subject:** SB238

My name is Michael Johndro and I live in Sutton, AK. I am the father of a young woman that works at the Palmer Public Library. My daughter and I have vastly different opinions on most social/political issues. While I personally would not wish to access several titles that seem to be causing such controversy, I believe that the public library serves more than just me. I do not have the right to restrict access to titles (AKA-censor) that other community members may want. I further do not want library staff to become the targets of overzealous community members that want to penalize library staff members that some folks equate to the antichrist. I support SB238 and feel "policing" children/teens book choices belongs with their parents, not whomever should decide that librarians are inherently evil and should be punished. Thank you,

Michael Johndro  
Sutton  
9073555800

## Michael Mason

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**From:** Molly Benson [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 2, 2026 4:38 PM  
**To:** Senate Education  
**Subject:** Support SB 238 and the freedom to read

I am writing in support of SB 238, and I thank Senator Kawasaki for introducing this bill.

Librarians are highly educated professionals with the training necessary to choose books for libraries, and they should be permitted to do their jobs. Likewise, we can trust individuals to make their own decisions about what they read. Library materials should be provided for the interests of all the people of the community that the library serves. Libraries should not be limited to offering only "rated G" materials to the public. Speaking for myself, there are all sorts of materials on library shelves that I don't like or agree with, but it would never occur to me to try to remove them from the shelves so that others can't access them. Restricting or removing access to books goes against the very nature of libraries.

Book bans are misguided attempts to legislate morality through censorship and government overreach. A small group of people should not be permitted to remove books from library shelves simply because they dislike the ideas contained in those books, and they should not be permitted to dictate which books other people read. Likewise, parents have the right to guide their children's reading, but parents should not try to make decisions for other parents' children.

Removing and banning books from public libraries is a slippery slope to government censorship and the erosion of freedom of expression. Democracy is about the free flow of information and ideas, and that is essential to producing citizens who can think for themselves. Limiting the information available to the public or only allowing a certain ideology or type of information goes against the very principles this country was founded upon. A small group of people should not be permitted to control the narrative over many.

Please vote in favor of SB 238.

Thank you,

Molly Benson

**Michael Mason**

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**From:** nancykevin [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 2, 2026 2:46 PM  
**To:** Senate Education  
**Subject:** SB238

Senators,

I support this bill and you should too. I could go into great lengths to list all the reasons why but I won't. Just stating I support it is enough!

Nancy Racek  
Wasilla, AK

## Michael Mason

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**From:** Nate Smith <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 2, 2026 12:07 PM  
**To:** Senate Education  
**Subject:** Oppose SB 238/ Read In Testimony  
**Attachments:** Library.docx

### **Please read into Testimony**

#### **To Whom it may Concern,**

My name is Nathan Smith. I live in the Bear Creek area of the Kenai Peninsula Borough. I am a middle and high school wrestling coach, and I am also the parent of a Seward High school student.

I am here today to strongly oppose SB 238.

Every day, I work with teenagers. I see their struggles, their pressures, and the realities they face—especially when it comes to the internet. Our kids are already navigating a digital world that exposes them to more explicit and unfiltered content than any library ever could. Parents are on the front lines of that battle. We monitor phones. We set rules. We have hard conversations. We carry that responsibility because it is ours.

SB 238 does not strengthen families. It shifts decision-making away from parents and moves it toward government control. That is a dangerous precedent.

Our schools and libraries exist to promote literacy, learning, and critical thinking. When we inject criminal implications and political tension into those spaces, we create fear and division. Educators become hesitant. Libraries become battlegrounds. And students—the very people we claim to protect—become secondary to the controversy.

There is also a practical reality you must consider. When families feel their values and authority are being overridden, they look for alternatives. Some will turn to homeschooling. Some will pursue private options. Some will simply disengage. When enrollment drops, funding follows. Public schools and libraries cannot afford policies that push families away.

Most importantly, this is about parental rights. Parents and legal guardians—not the state—are responsible for determining what is appropriate for their children. Government should support families, not substitute its judgment for theirs.

We already face enough division in our communities. Please do not advance legislation that deepens that divide and distracts from the real mission of education.

I urge you to oppose SB 238.

Thank you for your time.

Nate Smith

Seward Middle, High School Wrestling Coach

12796 Madera Lane

Seward Alaska 99664

**Capt. Nathan Smith**

Manager-Puffin Fishing Charters

907-491-1300



**From:** Nicholas Pedersen <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 23, 2026 1:43 PM  
**To:** Sen. Scott Kawasaki <[Sen.Scott.Kawasaki@akleg.gov](mailto:Sen.Scott.Kawasaki@akleg.gov)>  
**Subject:** Senate Bill 238

Senator Kawasaki,

I just read that article regarding book bans in the Daily News Miner. Thank you for introducing the bill to standardize how a book may be reviewed if a parent or group deems the book as inappropriate. Alaska MUST not follow in the footsteps of Oklahoma or Tennessee...who are at the bottom of the nation in education because of the influence of groups like Moms for Liberty. In that vein, I will state that the bible itself has sexually explicit material.

Many youth read at different levels and should be able to read material that is at their level of understanding. Of all the books slated to be banned by the local Fairbanks Moms for Liberty organization, not one was sexually explicit. What those books did do was invite intellectual curiosity and discussion. If Moms for Liberty wants to avoid "grooming and sexual exploitation" then perhaps the children should avoid churches since that is where in the Fairbanks area predators have been arrested (that is a fact given the arrests in North Pole and Ft Wainwright of church youth leaders, as well as a recent state legislator's chief of staff).

Librarians are educated and trained to identify age appropriate literature. They should be protected. And also not subjected to the harassment that groups like Moms for Liberty subjects the schools and community to. If a community board is necessary to review books in question, it should be accomplished with appropriate personnel who have actually read the material and not left to the whims of a radical religious group. It is necessary for some literature to be controversial and thought provoking in order to encourage critical thinking in students.

Books like 'Anne Franks Diary' should never be banned yet it is on the Moms for Liberty List as our tremendous books such as 'The Handmaids Tale' and 'Of Mice and Men'. Granted a 1st grader may not read them but an advanced 5th grader or middle-schooler, and most definitely a high school student can and should read these works.

Don't allow special interests to win because all they do is seek to inhibit critical thinking...and that is what is the most dangerous of all.

Thank you.

Nicholas Pedersen

## Michael Mason

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**From:** Patience Frederiksen <patience7511@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 3, 2026 5:47 PM  
**To:** Senate Education  
**Subject:** I Support SB238

Senators,

I am adding my voice to the 22 people who testified yesterday in support of SB238 Relating to Library Materials for a variety of reasons:

- While opponents spoke of their parental rights being trampled by libraries purchasing materials they do not like, we must remember that parents who appreciate these materials for their children have parental rights, as well.
- Parents do have the final control over what their children borrow from libraries. If they object to some materials, they can simply not allow their children to take these items home.
- Libraries have been in the cross-hairs of our culture wars for some years now. I applaud this bill for removing them from this position. Librarians are not the enemies of parents or children. They want to work with parents to instill a love of reading in their children.

Please be aware that every public library that receives the annual public library operating grant must have a collection development policy on file with the Library Development unit of the Alaska State Library. While many of the policies are dated, some have been revised since this became a regulation in the late 1990s.

I do agree that the State Librarian should promulgate the model collection development policy for public libraries. The State Librarian has this expertise, while the Commissioner of DEED does not.

Thank you for holding this hearing. I hope there is enough time to bring this bill through the committees and floor votes in both the House and Senate before adjournment.

Sincerely,

Patience Frederiksen  
Retired Director of the Alaska State Library, Archives, and Museum and  
Alaska State Librarian 2016 - 2022

Feb. 28, 2026

Ref: SB 238 Kawasaki bill to shield librarians

[Senate.Education@akleg.gov](mailto:Senate.Education@akleg.gov)

JNUTSB105 3:30 PM M W F

**Standing Committee**

Dear Governing Body:

I am vehemently opposed to this bill. I am appalled that a bill of this magnitude would even come before a group of adults proclaiming to protect children.

Senator Scott Kawasaki is aware of the criminal behavior by librarians, museum employees, and governing bodies who distribute controversial or legally questionable material. In current law, this is criminal behavior and action. Hence, asking for criminal immunity for the museums, school and public librarians, and governing bodies.

In Sen. Kawasaki's opening paragraph of his Sponsor Statement letter says it all: *"an act relating to the access to library material; and relating to affirmative defenses to the offenses of enticement of a minor, contributing to the delinquency of a minor, and distribution of indecent material to minors"*. The act of taking criminal intent and action to complete lawlessness by blanket immunity for those actions.

Paragraph four of the sponsor statement states: *SB238 also provides protection to librarians and school employees who may be unfairly targeted by individuals acting in bad faith who would seek to have them fired or even imprisoned for merely allowing a library patron to freely check out material.* Parents and concerned citizens are not "bad actors". We have a right to protect our children from sexually explicit material, and a duty to protect all young minds. Parents are concerned about what their children are exposed to at public schools and school libraries. Schools are supposed to be a safe, protected institution of learning. Parents are not the criminals here.

At the bottom of his sponsor statement, Sen Kawasaki states: *SB238 ensures there is a process to ensure our libraries are filled with materials of serious literary, artistic, political, or scientific value.*

This bill is not about literary, artistic, political, or scientific books. This bill specifically allows people in authority over children to display, encourage, and suggest, sexually explicit pornographic books. Some books are so sexually explicit they can't be read out loud, (1) or shown at school board meetings. Books are not benign, they shape a child's imagination. These young people could not walk into an store and buy this type of a book without being at least 18 years old. And yet, the school commits criminal action on school property every day, by displaying sexually explicit material and encourages reading of this smut.

There was a time, not so long ago, any place of business that sold magazines with questionable covers in public, had to have a black cover, or turn the back of magazine out to the public. Magazines like *Cosmopolitan*, *People Magazine*, *Glamour* and *Victoria's Secret* catalogues. The outside COVERS of those magazines was considered too risqué for public view.

Distributing illicit sexual material to under-age children is illegal in the State of Alaska. Period!

There is no excuse, no rationalization, no justification, no exemptions for favored parties. Period!

In reading SB 238, by the language used, shows attorneys have been involved from the beginning (AG Treg Taylor letter dated November, 16, 2023). Why is the public just now finding out about blanket immunity for librarians, museum workers and other governing bodies?

This is not book banning, this is protecting youth from bad actors, groomers and sexually criminal intent.

Please do not pass SB 238.

Sincerely,  
Patricia Bouton, Soldotna, AK

Some commonly cited books include:

"**Looking for Alaska**" by John Green (challenged for sexual content and language).

"**The Bluest Eye**" by Toni Morrison (challenged for depictions of child sexual abuse and trauma).

"**This Book Is Gay**" by Juno Dawson (criticized for explicit discussions of sexual practices, including oral sex).

"**Let's Talk About It**" by Erika Moen (described as encouraging minors to create and share explicit images).

"**Gender Queer**" by Maia Kobabe – targeted for explicit illustrations and discussions of gender and sexuality.

(1) Anchorage school librarian catches national attention for promoting porn books, comparing them to the Bible-MustReadAlaska, Suzanne Downing Mar. 4, 2023;

## Michael Mason

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**From:** Patricia Fisher <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 2, 2026 1:22 PM  
**To:** Senate Education  
**Subject:** \*\*\*\*\*SPAM\*\*\*\*\* Freedom to Read bill

Dear, [Senate.Education](#): I'm writing in support of Senate Bill SB238. Please support our libraries and the Freedom to Read.

Patricia Fisher  
Resident of the MatSu Borough  
[REDACTED]



Penguin  
Random  
House

Skip Dye  
Chair, Intellectual Freedom Taskforce  
Senior Vice President, Library Sales & Digital Strategy  
Penguin Random House  
1745 Broadway  
New York, NY 10019

March 2nd, 2026

The Honorable Senator Tobin  
Chair, Senate Education Committee  
Alaska State Legislature  
State Capitol Room 115  
Juneau AK, 99801

Dear Chair Tobin and Members of the Alaska Senate Education Committee,

On behalf of Penguin Random House and the Intellectual Freedom Taskforce, I write in strong support of Senate Bill 238, which will be heard in your committee Monday March 2nd, 2026.

As the world's largest trade book publisher, Penguin Random House works with thousands of authors whose books are read in Alaska's public and school libraries — from Anchorage to Utqiagvik, from the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta to Southeast communities accessible only by air or water. We believe that Alaskans — families, students, educators, and lifelong learners — deserve reliable access to a broad range of ideas and perspectives.

Our Intellectual Freedom Taskforce was created in response to a significant rise in coordinated efforts nationwide to remove or restrict books based on disagreement with their viewpoints. The Taskforce works with librarians, educators, authors, booksellers, and policymakers to defend the freedom to read, provide legal and policy guidance, and ensure that collection decisions are grounded in professional standards rather than political pressure. Our engagement in Alaska reflects that commitment.

Senate Bill 238 provides clear and constitutionally grounded protections for access to library materials. It establishes uniform statewide model policies for the selection and reconsideration of materials in both public and school libraries. These policies require that materials be evaluated as a whole, prohibit removal based on viewpoint, and ensure materials remain available during review. In a state as geographically vast and diverse as Alaska, consistent standards provide important clarity for communities of every size.

SB 238 also protects librarians and school library professionals acting in good faith within the scope of their employment by providing affirmative defenses and immunity from civil and

Penguin Random House  
1745 Broadway  
NY, NY 10019  
212-782-8417  
[sdye@penguinrandomhouse.com](mailto:sdye@penguinrandomhouse.com)



Penguin  
Random  
House

criminal liability. Alaska already faces educator recruitment and retention challenges, particularly in rural communities. We should not add legal risk to professionals carrying out their responsibilities responsibly.

The bill preserves long-standing constitutional standards governing obscenity, requiring that material must be evaluated as a whole and found to lack serious literary, artistic, political, or scientific value before it may be restricted. This reaffirms settled First Amendment principles. It also prohibits funding retaliation against libraries that comply with the law and provides meaningful remedies if unlawful censorship occurs — ensuring accountability while protecting professional decision-making.

Alaska has long valued independence, open inquiry, and local judgment. SB 238 reflects those values by reinforcing that trained professionals — not political campaigns — should guide library collections.

We respectfully urge your continued leadership and support for Senate Bill 238. The Intellectual Freedom Taskforce stands ready to serve as a resource to you and the Committee as this legislation advances.

With appreciation and in partnership,

Skip Dye  
Chairman

Intellectual Freedom Taskforce  
Penguin Random House

## Michael Mason

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**From:** Prudence McKenney <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 2, 2026 3:10 PM  
**To:** Senate Education; Jenna Colquhoun  
**Subject:** SB238

Dear Members of the Alaska Senate Education Committee:

I am unable to phone in to today's public hearing on SB238, so I appreciate this opportunity to submit written testimony in support of this bill.

As a 38-year resident of Alaska, mostly in the Mat-Su Valley, it saddens and dismays me to see the attacks launched in the last 5 years or so against our school and public libraries. Ten years ago, if a bill like SB238 had come up for discussion, I would have stated unequivocally that such a bill was not necessary. Unfortunately, that is no longer the case.

Living and working in the Mat-Su Valley for nearly forty years has allowed me to witness many threats to our state's young people: poverty, crime, drugs, and the wide array of physical, emotional, and sexual abuse that plagues our state. Not a single one of those threats, however, is found on the shelves of our school or public libraries. In fact, access to the widest possible array of materials has been shown historically to aid young people in becoming thoughtful, compassionate adults.

And yet a small but very vocal group of people with a very specific political and religious agenda has continually denounced our libraries as places where children are "exposed to" inappropriate materials and pornography, and thus the libraries must be controlled by community members rather than trained library staff with the knowledge, skills, experience, and tools to do their jobs. This group caused the Mat-Su School District to remove books from school libraries for review, resulting only in an expensive lawsuit and settlement when that action was proven to violate the rights of students. Undeterred, the same group convinced the Mat Su mayor to form her own committee, comprising her hand-chosen people who do not represent their communities either geographically or ideologically. Committee members are charged with approving or disapproving Borough library purchasing decisions, meaning they now control the content of Borough libraries. When they deny a purchase, ostensibly they complete a form with their reasons for denial, but purchases have routinely been denied without the form's completion or any kind of fact-checking of the reasons given by committee members. The fact that this committee has been formed and given the power it has is absolutely disgraceful, but SB238 can offer some protection to other communities facing the same issues. Its provision for a statewide system of item review, collection development, and protection for library staff is critically important at this time.

The freedom to read and explore ideas is a core tenet of the United States of America, and public and school libraries have historically been places where her citizens have gone for information and assistance regardless of their personal or political beliefs. Library staff are educated, trained, and experienced in meeting the wide-ranging needs of their community members. Contrary to the misguided belief that the age of technology has made libraries obsolete, they are, in fact, more important than ever, and they are deserving of your support and protection.

Sincerely,  
Prudence McKenney



907-315-9285

## Michael Mason

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**From:** Rebecca Moorman [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 3, 2026 12:32 PM  
**To:** Senate Education  
**Cc:** Sen. Scott Kawasaki  
**Subject:** Support for SB 238

Senate Education Committee,

My name is Rebecca Moorman, I am from Anchorage, Alaska, and I am representing myself.

I am writing in strong support of SB 238 sponsored by Senator Kawasaki. As others testifying have mentioned, I suggest that where the language "Commissioner" appears, the draft legislation should be amended to read "Director of Libraries, Archives, and Museums."

This change will ensure that model policy is created by an educated authority in the library field rather than a political appointee who might not have a background in library collection policy.

Thank you for your civic commitment.

**From:** Nicholas Pedersen <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 23, 2026 1:43 PM  
**To:** Sen. Scott Kawasaki <[Sen.Scott.Kawasaki@akleg.gov](mailto:Sen.Scott.Kawasaki@akleg.gov)>  
**Subject:** Senate Bill 238

Senator Kawasaki,

I just read that article regarding book bans in the Daily News Miner. Thank you for introducing the bill to standardize how a book may be reviewed if a parent or group deems the book as inappropriate. Alaska MUST not follow in the footsteps of Oklahoma or Tennessee...who are at the bottom of the nation in education because of the influence of groups like Moms for Liberty. In that vein, I will state that the bible itself has sexually explicit material.

Many youth read at different levels and should be able to read material that is at their level of understanding. Of all the books slated to be banned by the local Fairbanks Moms for Liberty organization, not one was sexually explicit. What those books did do was invite intellectual curiosity and discussion. If Moms for Liberty wants to avoid "grooming and sexual exploitation" then perhaps the children should avoid churches since that is where in the Fairbanks area predators have been arrested (that is a fact given the arrests in North Pole and Ft Wainwright of church youth leaders, as well as a recent state legislator's chief of staff).

Librarians are educated and trained to identify age appropriate literature. They should be protected. And also not subjected to the harassment that groups like Moms for Liberty subjects the schools and community to. If a community board is necessary to review books in question, it should be accomplished with appropriate personnel who have actually read the material and not left to the whims of a radical religious group. It is necessary for some literature to be controversial and thought provoking in order to encourage critical thinking in students.

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Don't allow special interests to win because all they do is seek to inhibit critical thinking...and that is what is the most dangerous of all.

Thank you.

Nicholas Pedersen

## Jenna Colquhoun

---

**From:** H Buzby [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 28, 2026 10:52 PM  
**To:** Sen. Scott Kawasaki  
**Subject:** SB238

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Feb. 28, 2026

Ref: SB 238 Kawasaki bill to shield librarians  
[Senate.Education](#)

Standing Committee  
Dear Governing Body:

I am vehemently opposed to this bill. I am appalled that a bill of this magnitude would even come before a group of adults proclaiming to protect children. Senator Scott Kawasaki is aware of the criminal behavior by librarians, museum employees, and governing bodies who distribute controversial or legally questionable material.

In current law, this is criminal behavior and action. Hence, asking for criminal immunity for the museums, school and public librarians, and governing bodies. In Sen. Kawasaki's opening paragraph of his Sponsor Statement letter says it all: "an act relating to the access to library material; and relating to affirmative defenses to the offenses of enticement of a minor, contributing to the delinquency of a minor, and distribution of indecent material to minors". The act of taking criminal intent and action to complete lawlessness by blanket immunity for those actions.

Paragraph four of the sponsor statement states: SB238 also provides protection to librarians and school employees who may be unfairly targeted by individuals acting in bad faith who would seek to have them fired or even imprisoned for merely allowing a library patron to freely check out material. Parents and concerned citizens are not "bad actors". We have a right to protect our children from sexually explicit material, and a duty to protect all young minds.

Parents are concerned about what their children are exposed to at public schools and school libraries. Schools are supposed to be a safe, protected institution of learning. Parents are not the criminals here.

At the bottom of his sponsor statement, Sen Kawasaki states: SB238 ensures there is a process to ensure our libraries are filled with materials of serious literary, artistic, political, or scientific value.

This bill is not about literary, artistic, political, or scientific books. This bill specifically allows people in authority over children to display, encourage, and suggest, sexually explicit pornographic books. Some books are so sexually explicit they can't be read out loud, or shown at school board meetings. Books are not benign, they shape a child's imagination. These young people could not walk into a store and buy this type of a book without being at least 18 years old. And yet, the school commits criminal action on school property every day, by displaying sexually explicit material and encourages reading of this smut.

There was a time, not so long ago, any place of business that sold magazines with questionable covers in public, had to have a black cover, or turn the back of magazine out to the public.

Magazines like Cosmopolitan, People Magazine, Glamour and Victoria's Secret catalogues. The outside COVERS of those magazines was considered too risqué for public view.

Distributing illicit sexual material to under-age children is illegal in the State of Alaska. Period!

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In reading SB 238, by the language used, shows attorneys have been involved from the beginning (AG Treg Taylor letter dated November, 16, 2023). Why is the public just now finding out about blanket immunity for librarians, museum workers and other governing bodies?

This is not book banning, this is protecting youth from bad actors, groomers and sexually criminal intent.

Please do not pass SB 238.

Sincerely,  
Holly Buzby

Some commonly cited books include:

"Looking for Alaska" by John Green (challenged for sexual content and language).

"The Bluest Eye" by Toni Morrison (challenged for depictions of child sexual abuse and trauma).

"This Book Is Gay" by Juno Dawson (criticized for explicit discussions of sexual practices, including oral sex).

"Let's Talk About It" by Erika Moen (described as encouraging minors to create and share explicit images).

"Gender Queer" by Maia Kobabe – targeted for explicit illustrations and discussions of gender and sexuality.

## Jenna Colquhoun

---

**From:** Claire McKay <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 2, 2026 2:50 PM  
**To:** Jenna Colquhoun  
**Subject:** Fwd: Comments and support for SB238

Good afternoon,

I am writing today to express my, and my family's, vehement support for SB238 and the protections it provides the freedoms we hold dear and the staff who work hard to support a core institution of a learned society.

This bill is written so as to put into effect at State level protections that are standard practice in many places, but yet are intentionally being targeted by a small group of individuals abusing the term "child safety". SB 238 protects librarians and staff from becoming targets of a baseless campaign to harass employees of local government as well as codifies and protects existing library curating policies.

Libraries are designed to be a collection reflective of the community, to include a vast array of materials and viewpoints reflective of the diverse and varied members of the community itself. A common rhetoric of opponents of the freedom to read is that there are materials present aimed at adults that are dispensed to children, however that could not be further from the truth. A collection is not a curriculum, it is not required reading or a dispensation. In actuality, protecting the freedom to read is a concrete expression of parental rights'. Parents have the right and responsibility to guide their children and teach them as they choose, that responsibility does not fall on public library staff. A parent has the right and responsibility to expose their child to ideas and material at times they deign age-appropriate, it is not the public library's job to be sanitized to meet the restrictions of being entirely age-appropriate for children.

The presence of materials aimed at adults is not equivilant to distribution to minors. The adult section is just that, and contains adult materials and topics for adults. While this is common practice, opponents of the freedom to read waste government time and money baselessly proposing that this indicates an intention to hurt children. As a parent of a young child I can assure you, library staff work hard to ensure that parents are armed with access and knowledge to guide their children, but that ultimately it is my responsibility. The sign of an educated and intelligent society is a well stocked library that does not cater to a specific viewpoint or ideology, or restrict additions based on personal preference. This bill ensures that will be codified state wide and protect library staff from harassment and abuse while they work to provide a vital service to the community.

As we face shortages and school closures and dwindling resources for our community's education, it's of the utmost importance that we show our support for libraries and those who staff them. Now more than ever libraries are in demand by the community, and protecting the freedom to read is critical. I urge you in the strongest possible terms to pass this bill, protect your communities, their libraries, and library staff, and protect the freedom for all to read regardless of class or creed.

Thank you so much for your time.

Sincerely,  
Claire McKay

MatSu Resident

## Jenna Colquhoun

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**From:** Doug Hill <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 2, 2026 5:27 PM  
**To:** Sen. Scott Kawasaki  
**Subject:** SB 238 - I support SB 238

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Senator Kawasaki,

Thank you for the Freedom to Read Bill.

I have two sisters that are librarians. One in her 60s and one in her 70s. They are both beloved in their small-town Ohio and Maine communities. When I visit them we often meet people their communities region wide that love them.

I am very offended and tired of the assault on librarians. How many of the assaulters know any of the librarians? Is this the work of MAGA? Christian Nationalism?

I grew up in a Finnish Lutheran Church and feel very fortunate for that fact. The point of the church was being a decent human being and thinking for yourself. It was not about hate and power.

Doug Hill  
Palmer, Alaska

## Jenna Colquhoun

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**From:** J Go <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 2, 2026 5:38 PM  
**To:** Sen. Scott Kawasaki  
**Subject:** Fwd: SENATE BILL NO. 238, comment

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Senator Kawasaki,  
Thank you for sponsoring SB238,  
and for considering an amendment to the language as outlined in my  
comment below.

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** J Go <[REDACTED]>  
**Date:** Mon, Mar 2, 2026 at 6:27 PM  
**Subject:** SENATE BILL NO. 238, comment  
**To:** <[Senate.Education@akleg.gov](mailto:Senate.Education@akleg.gov)>

Senate Education Committee,

My name is Jillian Gold, I am from Cordova, Alaska, and am representing  
myself.

I am writing in strong support of SB 238, sponsored by Senator Kawasaki. I  
will, though, echo testimonials I heard today suggesting that where the  
language *commissioner* appears, should be amended to read *Director of Libraries,  
Archives, and Museums*.

This change will ensure that policy is modeled by an educated authority in  
the field rather than a political appointee who might not have a background  
in library material curation.

Thank you for your civic commitment.

## Jenna Colquhoun

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**From:** Katie Dawson [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 2, 2026 2:35 PM  
**To:** Sen. Scott Kawasaki  
**Subject:** SB 238

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

I support the Freedom To Read. It is imperative that citizens with the right of free expression be allowed to choose what they wish to read. Americans don't need a nanny state hovering over their shoulders and telling them what they are allowed to read.

Parents worried about what their kids read in school? That is already monitored and controlled by teachers and librarians who make sure kids receive books pertinent to their age.

Parents who are overly concerned can monitor for themselves what books kids bring home, or if they're really afraid they can homeschool or private school.

And no, The Freedom To Read has absolutely nothing to do with showing kids porn. That's just a scare tactic. The organizations that want to censor books are after power and control, not child safety.

Please don't treat Americans like children who need to be told what they can read or learn about.

Keep the Freedom to Read.

Thank you, Katie Dawson.  
Sent from my iPhone

## Jenna Colquhoun

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**From:** mary robinson <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 2, 2026 12:46 PM  
**To:** Sen. Scott Kawasaki  
**Subject:** Freedom to Read bill

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

I am writing in support of Intellectual [freedom.Living](#) in the MatSu valley and using the MatSu Borough libraries means that Mayor DeVries handpicked appointees to the Library Advisory Board control what is available in the libraries.

The 9 member L.A.B. has challenged/refused to purchase books with titles such as;"Death in the jungle","The devil's daughter" and "The Case of the clanging coffin".The self-professed conservative members of 2 local churches appointed to the L.A.B. "feel"that MSB residents shouldn't read "dark" books or any books with sex.

I am 70 years old and no one tells me what to read!

I support SB 238.

Mary Robinson  
[REDACTED]

## Jenna Colquhoun

---

**From:** Riza Smith [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 2, 2026 3:23 PM  
**To:** Sen. Scott Kawasaki  
**Subject:** Support regarding SB 238

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Good afternoon,

Although it is brief and does not cover the full range of details I wish to convey due to the short notice, this email constitutes my written support for Senate Bill 238.

Thank you for taking the time to protect the work done by libraries and their staff across the state. This legislation is vital to protecting freedoms, and continued access to information during a time where we *cannot* risk facts and our history being silenced.

Thank you,

**Riza Smith**  
*Owner/Organizer*  
[Marchagainst.org](http://Marchagainst.org)

If you have received this e-mail in error, please immediately notify the sender by reply e-mail and destroy all copies of the original message.

## Jenna Colquhoun

---

**From:** S G-L <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 2, 2026 9:52 PM  
**To:** Sen. Scott Kawasaki  
**Subject:** SB238

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Dear Senator Kawasaki,

I can appreciate protecting free speech and the well meaning attempt at giving librarians and teachers special protection against unwarranted litigation, it is a very important defence. However i believe that putting special protectections in to create a protected sratus that goes against already established laws such as not contributing to the delinquency of a minor , enticement of a minor or distribution of pornogrsphic materials to children will ultimately create yet another coveted position for groomers and peadophiles to seek employment for the purposes ive already stated please reconsider the angle of this bill and prevent the loss of yet another safe space for children.

Thank you for your service and consideration of my opinions and requests.

Sincerely, Sundae Griffinlynn

[Yahoo Mail: Search, Organize, Conquer](#)

## Michael Mason

---

**From:** Reene Audette [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 2, 2026 11:25 AM  
**To:** Sen. Jesse Bjorkman  
**Subject:** SB 238

Dear Jesse Bjorkman,

I am writing to implore you to please not advance SB 238 "An Act relating to access to library material; and relating to affirmative defenses to the offenses of enticement of a minor, contributing to the delinquency of a minor, and distribution of indecent material to minors."

I believe this bill will ultimately create more division and distraction from one of the core purposes of our schools and libraries: advocating for youth reading and literacy.

In the long term, measures like this could harm schools and libraries by pushing more families to withdraw their children from public education and seek literature through alternative sources outside of public libraries. Over time, this shift would likely lead to changes in funding allocation that disadvantage these institutions.

Above all, this bill represents yet another effort to undermine the sovereign autonomy of families. Parents and legal guardians are the adults responsible for making these decisions for their children--- please protect that fundamental right.

Reene Elhard  
Bear Creek Area, Kenai Peninsula Borough

## Michael Mason

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**From:** Reene Audette <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 3, 2026 11:43 AM  
**To:** Senate Education  
**Subject:** SB 238 follow up

Dear Senate Education Committee,

Below is an email I sent to you with my initial concerns of SB 238. Please use as reference for the main body of this email, below.

*I am writing to implore you to please not advance SB 238 "An Act relating to access to library material; and relating to affirmative defenses to the offenses of enticement of a minor, contributing to the delinquency of a minor, and distribution of indecent material to minors."*

*I believe this bill will ultimately create more division and distraction from one of the core purposes of our schools and libraries: advocating for youth reading and literacy.*

*In the long term, measures like this could harm schools and libraries by pushing more families to withdraw their children from public education and seek literature through alternative sources outside of public libraries. Over time, this shift would likely lead to changes in funding allocation that disadvantage these institutions.*

*Above all, this bill represents yet another effort to undermine the sovereign autonomy of families. Parents and legal guardians are the adults responsible for making these decisions for their children--- please protect that fundamental right.*

I am writing to emphasize key statements from yesterday's bill hearing, particularly those made by Senator Kawasaki, which confirm my serious concerns about this legislation.

At approximately minute 38:30, Senator Stevens began questioning the bill. In response, Senator Kawasaki stated: "If the state had a unified policy, there'd be less of these discussions at school board tables." He further explained that this was the primary reason for introducing the bill.

These words reveal the bill's goal: to reduce or eliminate local discussions, protests, lawsuits, and efforts to reallocate funds at the school board level. Yet these are precisely the democratic mechanisms—public meetings, letters, phone calls, peaceful protests, and legal challenges—through which community members raise legitimate concerns and hold public institutions accountable.

During public testimony, many speakers highlighted issues such as protests, signage, doxxing, and verbal assaults directed at librarians. If any illegal acts have occurred, they should be addressed through law enforcement, with police reports filed. Strong community concerns do not equate to inappropriate or illegal behavior. Lawsuits, protests, and complaints arise from genuine worries about materials in public schools and libraries—issues that reflect deep community care.

A vocal minority often represents the views of a larger, quieter majority, many of whom respond by quietly withdrawing their children from these facilities rather than engaging in confrontation.

Some testimonies claimed that raising concerns imposes a "narrow" or religious worldview that diminishes others' rights to read. This is inaccurate. No one's right to read is infringed when adults voice concerns about children's access to certain materials. Moreover, demographic data—such as global Christian population figures and Alaska voter registration—indicate that the majority do not support exposing minors to adult-themed subjects.

Removing options to sue, protest, challenge funding allocations, or participate in school board meetings would legally mute community voices, violating constitutional principles of free speech and petition.

As Senator Stevens noted, there are no true book bans in our country—materials remain accessible online or elsewhere. The real issue is whether every controversial item, particularly those promoting gender ideology, must be available in publicly funded schools and libraries without parental knowledge or consent.

Eliminating parental and community recourse removes essential checks and balances, leading to greater government control rather than local input.

In my own community last October, during their Banned Books event, the library created a minor library card application that did not require parental consent—without public input. Additionally, they placed posters advertising the event in the middle and high schools without permission, circumnavigating parents and the broader community to directly solicit minors for access to books that this community and many others across the country contend are inappropriate for that age group. This exemplifies the broader push to sideline parents in decisions affecting children.

The arena for open conversation must remain open. Thank you for considering these concerns.

Sincerely,

Reene Elhard

Bear Creek Area, Kenai Peninsula Borough

## Michael Mason

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**From:** Rita Trometter [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 2, 2026 11:36 AM  
**To:** Senate Education  
**Subject:** SB238

Dear Committee,

Please vote NO on SB238 for the better wellbeing of our school age children under the age of 18 years of age.

Sincerely,  
Rita Trometter  
North Pole



Virus-free. [www.avast.com](http://www.avast.com)

## Michael Mason

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**From:** Sandy Blomfield [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 5, 2026 7:47 AM  
**To:** Senate Education  
**Subject:** SB 238

Legislators,

I'm requesting that you vote NO to the passage of SB 238.

Local control over education for the public sector should remain local.

A statewide mandate isn't the answer!

Thank you for considering this fact and voting NO.

Sandy Blomfield

## Michael Mason

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**From:** Seina Bell [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 2, 2026 9:57 AM  
**To:** Senate Education  
**Subject:** SB238

Good morning,

I am writing in support of SB238 to protect library workers and educators. I have heard people protesting this bill as if it will attract pedophiles to libraries or protect people who are actively trying to harm children. The reality is that legislation like this is standard across the country, because reasonable people understand that libraries hold materials for everyone and employees should not be prosecuted if a parent fails to supervise their child in the library.

This type of law is necessary here, as librarians and educators are being regularly accused of awful crimes which are not remotely true. Please support SB238, support libraries, museums, and schools. Support the people growing and preserving knowledge for our community.

Thank you,  
Seina Bell  
Palmer, AK

## Michael Mason

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**From:** Sheri Higbee <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 1, 2026 9:54 PM  
**To:** Senate Education  
**Subject:** I oppose SB238

To whom this may concern,

I oppose SB238. Educators have a responsibility and duty to put age appropriate material in our libraries and to stay in their lane which is reading, writing and arithmetic. This means to keep sexual material (including porn), teachings about gay sex or the like OUT of our libraries.

I ABSOLUTELY feel that Librarians must be held accountable and leave their "personal beliefs and agendas" out of the classroom.

Sincerely,

Sheri Higbee  
Anchorage, AK

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**From:** Dave & Toni Claxton [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 2, 2026 11:23 AM  
**To:** Sen. Löki Tobin <[Sen.Loki.Tobin@akleg.gov](mailto:Sen.Loki.Tobin@akleg.gov)>; Sen. Gary Stevens <[Sen.Gary.Stevens@akleg.gov](mailto:Sen.Gary.Stevens@akleg.gov)>; Sen. Jesse Bjorkman <[Sen.Jesse.Bjorkman@akleg.gov](mailto:Sen.Jesse.Bjorkman@akleg.gov)>; Sen. Jesse Kiehl <[Sen.Jesse.Kiehl@akleg.gov](mailto:Sen.Jesse.Kiehl@akleg.gov)>; Sen. Elvi Gray-Jackson <[Sen.Elvi.Gray-Jackson@akleg.gov](mailto:Sen.Elvi.Gray-Jackson@akleg.gov)>  
**Subject:** SB 238

Another in a long line of legislative actions meant to waste time and energy.

This bill should be voted down. And if they really want to try again, remove "school librarians" from the bill and send it through again. And draft another bill that prohibits sexually explicit material of any kind in school libraries and send that through. It provides zero educational value so does not belong in schools. Then school librarians won't need protection because there will be nothing for them to recommend!

Public libraries shouldn't even be providing this crap to adults. If they want that type of material, get out your wallet and go buy it. Or obtain it some other way. But I absolutely do not want my tax dollars funding the purchase, storage and distribution of any sexually explicit material. And if we prohibit it in our public libraries, again no more protection needed for public librarians because nothing for them to recommend to children!

Vote NO on 238. Senator Kawasaki should be ashamed. But here again is another non-parent trying to decide what is best for our kids!

*Toni*

## Michael Mason

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**From:** Virginia Robson <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 3, 2026 5:27 AM  
**To:** Senate Education  
**Subject:** Libraries

Neither the federal nor the state governments have any business limiting reading material!! SB238 is over stepping!

Ms Ginny  
Wasilla Alaska

## Michael Mason

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**From:** Waynette Coleman <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 28, 2026 11:31 PM  
**To:** Senate Education  
**Subject:** SB 238

I absolutely oppose this bill.

You are protecting the adults but not the kids.

The children should always be protected from lewd, pornographic books and pictures. The school library or public library is not for adults to present explicit sexual content. They are responsible for the content therefore they are held responsible. No on SB 238.

Sincerely  
Waynette Coleman  
Ninilchik, AK

## Michael Mason

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**From:** Wendy Taylor [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 2, 2026 4:23 PM  
**To:** Senate Education  
**Subject:** SB238

To whom this proposed Senate Bill is presented on 3/9.

I'm a resident of the MatSu Borough with children in public schools. Our family frequents all the public libraries in our borough and is in support of the construction of the Palmer City library. We especially appreciate the state-wide borrowing program of materials.

We also support our freedoms in accessing all material without any interference or censorship. At this point and as residents of Alaska, our concerns are for alternative forms of energy, full funding of our schools, and a state pension reinstated for all public servants.

Please recalibrate this on and off again trial of censorship and focus on more relevant and important concerns of our citizenry.

907.354.8671

[REDACTED]  
Wendy Taylor  
Sent from my iPhone