

For Immediate Release - March 22, 2025:
At The Root Collective and Alabama Transgender Rights Action Coalition (ALTRAC)
Respond to Transphobic Takeover at APLS Board Meeting

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Thursday's Alabama Public Library Service (APLS) Board of Directors meeting delivered a staggering attack on both public libraries and transgender people throughout the state. Moms for Liberty, Clean Up Alabama, Citizens Against Sexualizing Kids, and Eagle Forum of Alabama have stated over and over again that they were "not asking for books to be banned" and "not targeting LGBTQ+ materials," but they plainly revealed their true goals as they spewed nearly two full hours worth of transphobic hate and disinformation during the public comments portion of the meeting.

The APLS board then voted to defund the Fairhope Public Library without contacting the library administration or offering any due process; to fire APLS Executive Director Dr. Nancy Pack for not caving to the demands of these Christo-fascists; and to send a letter to all state libraries advising them to comply with Trump's executive order 14168 by removing all transgender-related materials. While the APLS is not a governing body, the board has demonstrated that it is willing to hold funding hostage from public libraries that do not meet their standards of compliance and will almost certainly do so to acquiesce to Moms for Liberty's transphobic smear campaign.

The effects of the decisions made by the APLS board will be unfolding in the days to come. Unfunded administrative code directives from last year have already caused major fiscal impacts to our libraries, with Huntsville Madison County Public Library reporting an estimated cost of \$59,436 thus far to put the policies from last year into place. The transphobic blackmail that has now been issued will cost our libraries substantially more as the bans on transgender materials will impact the entire library. All of this is happening under the premise that it will protect federal funding streams, though said funds are no longer confirmed after DOGE's downsizing of the Institute of Museum and Library Services per executive order 14283. All of this gutting of our public libraries will disproportionately impact LGBTQ+, BIPOC, disabled, working class, rural, and other marginalized and underserved communities – but everyone, from homeschooling families to young professionals, job searchers to retirees, stand to lose essential resources and services.

At the Root Collective and the Alabama Transgender Rights Action Coalition (ALTRAC) continue our fight against these far-right extremists who are attempting to erase transgender and gender-nonconforming members of our community from public life by attacking the public library. To our transgender neighbors: we have always been here, we will always be here, and we will not be silent in the face of attempts to ban our stories and our histories.

To our library workers during this dark time: we will continue to stand and fight for and with you and for libraries we can all, once again, be proud to support.

To our city and county representatives: the state is attacking our libraries, and it is time for you to protect your community by pushing back against these unfunded edicts that are coming out of your constituents' pockets.

To the Alabama Public Library Service board: your mission is to support institutions that protect everyone's intellectual freedom and right to read. You have fundamentally failed the people of Alabama, and we will not stand by and let you take our libraries from us. Libraries belong to the People!

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At The Root Collective is a grassroots organization that came together in 2023 around the issues of censorship and attacks on LGBTQ+ and BIPOC representation in Madison County libraries. The collective is in formation with over 100 other organizations across the South in the Southern freedom movement tradition. <https://allmylinks.com/attherootcollective>



The Alabama Transgender Rights Action Coalition provides information and contact tools to Alabama citizens concerned about legislative attacks on queer and transgender people. <https://altrac.works>