



12011 Tejon Street, Suite 700 Westminster, CO 80234
Phone: 303-463-6400 • Fax: 303-458-0002
www.cal-webs.org Email: cal@cal-webs.org

COLORADO ASSOCIATION OF LIBRARIES (CAL) PRESS RELEASE: October 12, 2018

On October 10, 2018, The Thomas More Society filed a [lawsuit](#) in Arapahoe County District Court against EBSCO Industries Inc. (EBSCO) and the Colorado Library Consortium (CLiC). The lawsuit is brought on behalf of Pornography is Not Education, a small Colorado group led by Robin and Drew Patterson. Their complaint alleges that EBSCO “knowingly provides sexually explicit and obscene materials to school children,” and that CLiC “purchases from EBSCO and knowingly brokers sexually [*sic*] explicit, obscene, and harmful materials to Colorado school children.”

The Colorado Association of Libraries (CAL) is a non-profit organization representing librarians, library employees, institutions, and corporations drawn from public, school, academic, and special libraries; public library trustees; education administrators; library service providers; library vendors; volunteers; and library supporters. **As an organization committed to intellectual freedom and the community’s right to free and unfettered access to information, CAL takes strong issue with the merit of this legal filing, and is herein expressing its deepest concern about the tenor and true intent of the action.**

The American Library Association [Freedom to Read](#) statement asserts:

The freedom to read is essential to our democracy. It is continuously under attack. Private groups and public authorities in various parts of the country are working to remove or limit access to reading materials, to censor content in schools, to label "controversial" views, to distribute lists of "objectionable" books or authors, and to purge libraries. These actions apparently rise from a view that our national tradition of free expression is no longer valid; that censorship and suppression are needed to counter threats to safety or national security, as well as to avoid the subversion of politics and the corruption of morals.

The statement above perfectly describes the motivations of the two individuals spearheading this entirely baseless lawsuit. They are on a personal crusade to impose one particular worldview upon the entire community, and the targets of their campaign extend well beyond EBSCO, CLiC, and Colorado. Their true aim is to censor all electronic materials from school and public libraries, despite the fact that both federal and Colorado state statutes adequately and appropriately address the need to ensure age-appropriate access to information in our public schools and libraries. Their goal is no less than to undermine the fundamental tenets of a free society.

The Freedom to Read statement continues, “We, as individuals devoted to reading and as librarians and publishers responsible for disseminating ideas, wish to assert the public interest in the preservation of the freedom to read.” In this spirit, on behalf of citizens who rely on our libraries, the Colorado Association of Libraries urges the public to stand up for their intellectual freedom rights and the right of each community to make local decisions about information resources.

To become involved and learn how you can join the fight against censorship, contact us at cal@cal-webs.org.

On behalf of the Colorado Association of Libraries (CAL) and the CAL Intellectual Freedom Committee,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Carol Smith', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Carol Smith, 2018 CAL President

The Colorado Association of Libraries (CA) is a 501(c)(6) membership organization that is the common bond, voice, and power for the library community. We are united to advocate for quality library services, support access to information, and foster the professional development of our members.