

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE ST. LOUIS COUNTY LIBRARY DISTRICT OPPOSING 15 CSR 30-200.015, A PROPOSED ADMINISTRATIVE RULE CHANGE SUBMITTED BY THE MISSOURI SECRETARY OF STATE, REGARDING LIBRARY CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENT FOR THE PROTECTION OF MINORS

WITNESSETH:

WHEREAS, Article 9, Section 10 of the Missouri Constitution authorizes the establishment and development of free public libraries in the State of Missouri; and

WHEREAS, the Missouri Statutes grant the Board of Trustees (the “Board”) of the St. Louis County Library District (the “District”), the authority to adopt policies, rules and regulations for the government of the Library and to carry out the purposes and intent of the Missouri Statutes establishing free library districts; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to that authority, the Board has an established collection development policy that supports the best interests of all patrons, including children and families, and reflects the diversity of age, race, ethnicity, culture, education and socioeconomic level and lifestyle of the communities it serves; and

WHEREAS, the Board believes that the right to access the Library and view the full range of published thoughts and ideas is an important part of the intellectual freedom that is basic to our democracy; and

WHEREAS, the Board values parents’ and guardians’ involvement in determining how their children use the library; and

WHEREAS, the Board is sensitive toward censorship and restriction of equitable access to books and other vital library materials to any patron, and believes that parents and guardians should act as arbiters on what is suitable for their own children.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Board of Trustees of the St. Louis County Library District does hereby resolve, determine, authorize and order as follows:

1. Preambles. The Board hereby finds and determines those matters set forth in the preambles hereof as if set out fully and completely in this Section 1.
2. Opposition to 15 CSR 30-200.015. In consideration of the proposed administrative rule that would restrict state funding to public libraries based on certain requirements as stated in 15 CSR 30-200.015, the Board hereby urges the Joint Committee on Administrative Rules to reject 15 CSR 30-200.015 for the following reasons:
 - a. The Board subscribes to the principles embodied in the Library Bill of Rights and its interpretations, the Freedom to Read Statement and Freedom to View Statement adopted by the American Library Association;

- b. The Board believes it should be the right and responsibility of parents and guardians to make determinations on what library materials are suitable for their own children;
 - c. The Board opposes the possibility of censorship and restrictions on the equitable access of books and library materials; and
 - d. The Board believes that policy and collection development decisions should remain at the discretion of the local library board, as permitted by Missouri Statute.
3. Effective Date. This Resolution shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage and approval.

APPROVED this 21 day of November, 2022, by the Board of Trustees of the St. Louis County Library District.