Statement from the Iowa Library Association on Filing an Amicus Brief Regarding SF496

The Iowa Library Association (ILA) stands firm in its commitment to protecting the fundamental rights of access to information and intellectual freedom for all Iowans. With deep concern regarding the implications of Senate File 496 (SF496), the ILA has joined the Freedom to Read Foundation and American Association of School Librarians in filing an amicus curiae brief in the two cases pending (GLBT Youth in IA Schools v. Reynolds and Penguin Random House v. Robbins) in the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals.

SF496 poses significant challenges to the core principles that libraries uphold, including the freedom to access information without censorship or undue restriction. As an organization dedicated to advancing literacy, learning, and equitable access to knowledge, the ILA believes it is imperative to advocate for the preservation of these principles. Teacher librarians and information specialists have a right to operate within clear First Amendment standards without fear, the potential loss of livelihood, or legal repercussions. In fact, Iowans have a longstanding history of upholding these ideals with the Library Bill of Rights having been drafted in Iowa in 1938.

In filing this amicus brief, the ILA seeks to provide valuable insights into the impact of SF496 on libraries, teacher librarians, and the students they serve. Furthermore, we aim to support broader efforts to safeguard intellectual freedom and ensure that all individuals have the ability to explore diverse perspectives and ideas through library resources.

The ILA urges stakeholders to carefully consider the implications of SF496 and its effects on the democratic principles of intellectual freedom and access to information. We remain steadfast in our commitment to defending these principles and will continue to advocate for the rights of library users across Iowa.