



# Intellectual Freedom Committee

Oregon Library Association

Statement from the Oregon Library Association's Intellectual Freedom Committee

RE: McMinnville School District's denial of appeal regarding challenged books

The Oregon Library Association's Intellectual Freedom Committee (IFC) applauds the recent decision by the McMinnville School Board to retain seven challenged titles in their high school library.

The school board voted during their October 14th meeting to deny the appeal of the district's earlier decision to retain the challenged books. The district is commended for having good policy in place for managing requests for the reconsideration of library materials. The district is especially commended for following their documented policy from start to finish, culminating in the board's denial of the appeal. As a result of this decision, the following books remain on the library shelves:

- *Looking for Alaska* by John Green;
- *Me, Earl, and the Dying Girl* by Jesse Andrews Nolon;
- *Beyond Magenta* by Susan Kuklin; and
- *Glass; Smoke; Perfect; and Tricks*, all by Ellen Hopkins

Most importantly, the district sent a strong message defending the constitutional rights of their students and their parents or guardians to make their own choices about reading materials, and not to impose those choices on other students.

Not every book is right for every student, but every student deserves the right to freely read what is right for them. The IFC is grateful the McMinnville School Board understands and defends this fundamental right, and calls on school districts throughout Oregon to follow their excellent example.

The Oregon Library Association (OLA) is a professional organization of Oregon library workers and includes the Oregon Intellectual Freedom Committee. The IFC provides expertise and support for intellectual freedom issues on behalf of the Oregon Library Association and is the professional committee with the charges to support intellectual freedom and to respond to censorship. The OLA in combination with the IFC supports Oregon school and public libraries in managing challenges to materials within their library collections.