



## **Indiana Library Federation Statement on HEA 1447**

Indianapolis, IN - The Indiana Library Federation supports the policy in HEA 1447 that requires the establishment of publicly available policies that create transparency for the community and for parents. At the same time, we maintain that eroding the defenses from prosecution in state law will have an extremely chilling effect on librarians' efforts to make diverse, age-appropriate materials available to students without government interference.

ILF President, Christopher Proctor, offered the following statement after the adoption of the conference committee report:

"ILF has consistently come to the table over the last several years focused on finding policy solutions that balance diverse community interests and freedom of speech. We are grateful that the legislature listened to our concerns, and we are pleased that a part of these concerns were adopted in HEA 1447 via the local challenge process for public schools."

"While we are disappointed that the defenses were eroded, we respect the will of the legislature. Now that HEA 1447 has passed and has been sent to the Governor, we are hopeful this is a durable and long-lasting solution. We look forward to turning our time and attention to what we do best: literacy."

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*The Indiana Library Federation (ILF) is the statewide nonprofit organization for all library types: academic, public, school, special, and library supporters. It is the largest organization of its kind in Indiana, boasting more than 2,000 personal, institutional, library trustee, and business affiliate contributing members. ILF is laser focused on helping libraries and their staff thrive. Its mission is to lead, educate, and advocate to advance library services for the benefit of Indiana residents.*