



AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION OF UTAH
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ACLU of Utah Statement on Book Banning and the First Amendment

November 22, 2021

The ACLU of Utah supports the First Amendment by opposing attempts to ban books from Utah's public schools. Furthermore, we have a track record of successfully challenging unlawful attempts to censor content in school libraries.

In November 2012, the ACLU of Utah sued the Davis School District after administrators removed *In Our Mothers' House*, a children's book about a family with same-sex parents, from an elementary school library. Three months later, Davis School District settled the case with instructions to librarians to return *In Our Mothers' House* to the library shelves. Additionally, the district agreed to never remove a book from circulation based solely on its LGBTQ content.

Recently, officials at Canyons School District appear to have disregarded their standard process for reviewing content and instead removed nine books from library shelves without following established guidelines for reviewing content. As a reminder, constitutional protections cannot be simply ignored.

As we investigate complaints related to the Canyons School District, the ACLU of Utah remains committed to ensuring the First Amendment rights of Utahns are respected.

Weber v. Davis School District (2013)

<https://www.acluutah.org/legal-work/resolved-cases/item/331-weber-v-davis-school-district-2013>

About the ACLU of Utah

Founded in 1958, the ACLU of Utah is a not-for-profit, nonpartisan organization that utilizes legal, legislative, and public education approaches to fight for individual rights and fundamental freedoms. Our mission is to defend and promote the fundamental principles and values embodied in the Bill of Rights and the U.S. Constitution, including reproductive freedom, immigrant rights, free speech, racial justice, privacy, religious liberty, LGBTQ rights, and more. For more information, please visit www.acluutah.org.