

## NEWS RELEASE

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### **OLC Applauds Governor DeWine's Veto Protecting Libraries and Families**

COLUMBUS – The Ohio Library Council (OLC) applauds Governor Mike DeWine for vetoing a harmful provision in the state budget that would have required libraries to segregate materials.

"We applaud Governor DeWine and fully support his decision," said Michelle Francis, Executive Director of the OLC. "In Ohio, we already have strong laws in place regarding obscenity and materials harmful to juveniles," said Michelle Francis, Executive Director of the OLC.

The OLC also thanks the thousands of Ohioans who voiced their support for public libraries and contacted the Governor's Office. Their action helped protect the vital role libraries play in every community.

Ohio's public libraries have long-established collection development policies that ensure materials reflect the needs of their local communities. These policies include processes for public input, parental controls, and age-appropriate library card options — all designed to support families and ensure responsible access to materials.

"Ohio's public libraries already have policies in place to protect children," Francis added. "No one cares more about the safety, education, and well-being of children than libraries. For generations, libraries have provided trusted, welcoming spaces, and we will continue to do so with professionalism and integrity."

The OLC stands firmly behind Ohio's existing laws and the proven local practices that make public libraries one of the most valued and respected institutions in the state.

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