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ADMN/CITYMGR

June 20, 2023

The Honorable Mayor Lynne Ashbeck  
City of Clovis  
1033 Fifth Street  
Clovis, CA 93612

RE: Pride Month display in the children's section of the Clovis Public Library

Dear Mayor Ashbeck,

Recently the NEA advocated for a "Pride" emphasis in reading material in libraries throughout the country through their "Read Across America" program. Fresno County Libraries participated in it and as a Regional Library in the County, our Clovis Public Library is also participating in the "Pride" themed emphasis.

I was appalled to learn that a display featuring children's books on homosexual relationships and transgender themes was front and center in the children's book section of the library. Advocating for these abnormal lifestyles for children and making this literature available to children in our public libraries is irresponsible, immoral and should cease immediately. I have already shared my concerns with the Fresno County Librarian.

How are we as parents going to protect our children from predators who cannot reproduce apart from proselyting and grooming our young into their lifestyles. We live in a culture where the truth is veiled and most adults are unfamiliar with things like gender dysphoria because of this.

Abigail Shrier, an attorney, journalist and author who has been published in Newsweek, The Federalist, the New York Post and the Wall Street Journal and who also wrote "Irreversible Damage: The Transgender Craze Seducing Our Daughters" has some enlightening comments on the subject. She says:

"In 2007, America had one pediatric gender clinic; today there are hundreds. Testosterone is readily available to adolescents from places like Planned Parenthood and Kaiser on a first visit – without even a therapist's note."

She goes on to say, “How did we get to this point? How is it that we are all supposed to pretend that the only way you can know I’m a woman is if I tell you my pronouns? How did we get to an America in which a 13-year old in the State of Washington can begin “gender affirming” therapy without her parent’s consent? How did we get to an America in which a 15-year old in Oregon can undergo “top surgery” - elective double mastectomy – without her parent’s permission? And what can we do about it?”

The author cites some remarkable data on “gender dysphoria” that most parents and grandparents don’t know exists, things like the fact that it is very rare. It afflicts approximately 0.01% of the population and in most cases the afflicted individual is male and seventy percent of those afflicted outgrow it with no intervention. This has been the case for nearly 100 years of diagnostic history.

Today, at the slightest inkling of gender dysphoria, the initial intervention is often puberty blockers, the most common of which is Lupron whose original purpose was to chemically castrate sex offenders. When these blockers are administered to young adults they are typically followed by cross-sex hormone treatment which is known to cause infertility and sexual dysfunction that can be irreversible.

Another interesting fact is that prior to 2012, there was no scientific literature on gender dysphoria arising in teenage girls. Over the last decade there has been a sudden spike in transgender identification among teenage girls with no childhood history of gender dysphoria. There has been a decade-to-decade increase of 4,400 percent in the number of teenage girls seeking treatment at the United Kingdom’s national gender clinic. Today teenage girls are the leading demographic claiming to have gender dysphoria.

The author suggests this is a “social contagion” (the spread of ideas, emotions and behaviors through peer influence) rather than documented cases of gender dysphoria.

Why is it important to be informed about such things today? We have a responsibility to not contribute to the false notions about such matters and to protect our children and youth from indoctrination to the misinformation spread by events like “Pride Month” which has no place in our libraries and serves no purpose but to further confuse children with regard to their God given identity.

Anyone with even a cursory knowledge of the Bible knows that **Psalm 139:14** says, “I will give thanks to Thee, **for I am fearfully and wonderfully made**; Wonderful are Thy works, And my soul knows it very well.” The Bible is clear about God’s intention, notwithstanding the birth of special needs children whom God considers a gift to us and others with unique characteristics that we care for, there is a divine plan for humanity and these abnormal expressions we see in society, homosexuality, lesbianism, and transgenderism are contrary to that plan.

**Romans 1:20-32 is explicit in its accounting of how humanity has corrupted God’s plan.** It says, “For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, both His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse. For even though they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God or give thanks, but they became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing to be wise, they became fools, and exchanged the glory of the incorruptible God for an image in the likeness of corruptible man and of birds and four-footed animals and crawling creatures. Therefore, God gave them over in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, so that their bodies would be dishonored among them. For they exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen. For this reason, God gave them over to dishonorable passions; for their females exchanged the natural function for that which is unnatural, and in the same way also the males abandoned the natural function of the female and burned in their desire toward one another, males with males committing indecent acts and receiving in their own persons the due penalty of their error. And just as they did not see fit to acknowledge God, God gave them over to an unfit mind, to do those things which are not proper, having been filled with all unrighteousness, wickedness, greed, evil; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, malice; *they are* gossips, slanderers, haters of God, violent, arrogant, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, without understanding, untrustworthy, unloving, unmerciful; and although they know the righteous requirement of God, that those who practice such things are worthy of death, they not only do the same, but also give hearty approval to those who practice *them*.”

**Leviticus 20:13 clearly condemns homosexuality** when it says, “If there is a man who lies with a male as those who lie with a woman, both of them have committed an abomination;”

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God's word is clear that while He loves all of humanity, there are consequences for those who deviate from His plan. He is particularly clear about taking care of our children. **Matthew 19:14** expresses the love God has for children and His desire that they are encouraged in life to pursue good things rather than be hindered from doing so by adults. It says, "But Jesus said, "Let the children alone, and do not hinder them from coming to Me; for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." God also prescribes serious consequences for those who do not protect children in **Luke 17:2** where it says, "It would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck and he were thrown into the sea, than that he would cause one of these little ones to stumble."

There is no question that God is mindful of the condition of children in the world and that we should share His concern about their welfare. Providing books on homosexuality and transgenderism to children when we won't let them speak in class at school without raising their hand is frankly ludicrous. We keep children from harm in many ways all day long with crosswalks, fences on playgrounds, age requirements to buy harmful substances, and we don't let them vote. We all know why.

Why would we give them access to reading material that encourages them to make life altering decisions by deviating from God' plan, altering their lifestyle and perhaps mutilating their bodies when they are clearly not prepared for decision making with such consequences.

Please stop this not so subtle indoctrination of our children by those who would prey on them. Get those books out of the public library in our city. It's the job, and it's not easy, but it's the right thing to do.

Thank you,



Rick Wood  
Concerned Father and Grandfather

Clovis, CA 93611

Cc. Clovis City Council