To the ALA Council and Executive Board,

We, ALA Past-Presidents, want to voice our strong concern about the recent passage of a new much-abbreviated version of our core professional values. One of our number, Michael Gorman, wrote the classic book on core values, published by ALA Editions in 2000. In his 2015 revised edition titled *Our Enduring Values Revisited: Librarianship in an Ever-Changing World* (ALA 2015), he defined values as “…beliefs and ideals that are major, significant, lasting, and shared by members of a group.” As opposed to the current version of ALA core values, which are touted as “aspirational” and as a “supplement” to other ALA documents, the agreed values are the bedrock of our profession, and are readable and comprehensive. At a time when we are experiencing the worst right-wing attack on our core values since the McCarthy era, we advise that we take a step back, and re-evaluate the recent replacement of “our enduring values.”

Sincerely,

**Richard Dougherty, 1990-1991**

**Patricia Glass Schuman, 1991-1992**

**Betty J. Turock, 1995-1996**

**Mary Somerville, 1996-1997**

**Barbara Ford, 1997-1998**

**Nancy Kranich, 2000-2001**

**John W. Berry, 2001-2002**

**Mitch Freedman, 2002-2003**

**Michael Gorman, 2005-2006**

**Barbara Stripling, 2013-2014**