

TEXAS LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

Resolution Honoring BookPeople CEO Charley Rejsek

- WHEREAS,* Texas libraries have faced unprecedented censorship over the past two years; and
- WHEREAS,* According to PEN America, Texas leads the country in book bans with 438 instances of book bans by school districts between July and December 2022; and
- WHEREAS,* During the 88th Legislative Session nearly 40 bills were filed seeking to regulate content in school libraries, criminalize librarians for providing educational resources, and prohibit certain programming in public libraries; and
- WHEREAS,* BookPeople, an independent bookstore in Austin, Texas, and its CEO, Charley Rejsek, championed the freedom to read and challenged efforts to impose state control over information and resources provided by libraries to millions of Texas school children; and
- WHEREAS,* Charley Rejsek was a vocal advocate for school librarians throughout the legislative session, testifying before the Texas Senate Education committee offering compelling arguments against legislation removing professional duties from the hands of school librarians and placing it in the hands of vendors, hindering their ability to serve all students; and
- WHEREAS,* Charley Rejsek organized booksellers and customers to support access to school library reading materials; now, therefore, be it
- RESOLVED,* That the Texas Library Association, on behalf of its 5,000 members, and the Texas Association of School Librarians, a division of the Texas Library Association, hereby express sincere thanks and appreciation to Charley Rejsek and BookPeople for their unwavering support of Texas libraries and the freedom to read.



Shirley Robinson, CAE
TLA Executive Director

Approved and submitted by
Texas Association of School Librarians Executive Board
July 10, 2023



Adopted by TLA Council
July 14, 2023