

The ALA Council *adopted* this resolution on Wednesday, June 29, 2005

Resolution in Support of Immigrants' Rights to Free Public Library Access

- WHEREAS, The American Library Association is on record as opposing the REAL I.D. Act; and
- WHEREAS, This act will require all persons to present a standardized, state-issued I.D., creating in effect a de facto national "identity card"; and
- WHEREAS, This card requires secure, machine readable identity information to be included on every state issued drivers' license or personal identification card, linking personal information such as social security numbers; and
- WHEREAS, Every state will be forced to comply with the uniform standards set by the READ I.D. Act by 2008 at the states' expense, forcing states to incur the costs, thus taking needed public dollars normally allocated for libraries and other public services; and
- WHEREAS, The use of this form of identification denies basic, fundamental, human rights to immigrants, in violation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights established under the vision and leadership of Eleanor Roosevelt; and
- WHEREAS, The use of the REAL I.D. Act violates the International Bill of Rights treaties including the International Covenant of Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) as well as the International Covenant of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), to treaties commonly referred to as the "International Bill of Rights"; now, therefore, be it
- RESOLVED, That the American Library Association affirms the right of individuals, regardless of their legal status, to library services; and, be it further
- RESOLVED, That the American Library Association works with affiliates to inform and educate public libraries and member constituents on ways a patron can demonstrate library eligibility and continues to protect patron privacy by encouraging the use of free public library services for all immigrant populations.

Adopted by the Council of the American Library Association
Wednesday, June 29, 2005
In Chicago, Illinois