RESOLUTION ON FREEDOM FROM AIDS SCREENING FOR LIBRARY EMPLOYEES

Whereas, Workers in the United States are increasingly subjected to mandatory AIDS screening; and

Whereas, Libraries as units of academic, governmental and corporate organizations may be faced with mandates to participate in such employee screening; and

Whereas, Mandatory AIDS screening is offensive to many individuals, of questionable legality, and an unnecessary invasion of their privacy; and

Whereas, Positive test results may lead to wrongful discharge, unfair damage to careers, and undermining of co-worker relationships, and loss of medical benefits; and

Whereas, Such tests are not able to predict job impairment; now, therefore be it

Resolved, That the American Library Association adopt as policy opposition to mandatory AIDS screening of library employees; and, be it further

Resolved, That this policy be published in the ALA Policy Manual and American Libraries, communicated to the ALA Washington Office for notification of appropriate federal and legislative offices, and distributed to state library agencies; and, be it further

Resolved, That an appropriate office ALA be assigned responsibility for providing information to library employees who seek assistance in opposing participation in mandatory AIDS screening; and, be it further

Resolved, That employee assistance programs be advocated by ALA as the best way for library employers to respond to performance deficiencies due to such illness.

ADOPTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION
January 11, 1989, in Washington, D.C.

Thomas J. Galvin, Secretary of Council