

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING ALA LEGAL CHALLENGE OF CIPA

WHEREAS the recently enacted Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA) mandates that libraries and schools install and use filtering software on public Internet computers as a prerequisite for receiving federal funds, including LSTA and E-rate; and

WHEREAS no filtering software successfully differentiates constitutionally protected speech from illegal speech on the Internet; and

WHEREAS the federal commission appointed to study child safety on the Internet concluded filters are not effective in blocking all content that some may find objectionable, but do block much useful and constitutionally protected information; and

WHEREAS the Alaska library community strongly believes that educating children to use the Internet wisely provides children their best protection; and

WHEREAS thousands of Alaskans, because of geographic or economic barriers, have access to the Internet only through the computers available in their community and school libraries; and

WHEREAS the Alaska Library Association emphatically opposes attempts by federal and state governments to mandate the use of filters; and

WHEREAS the American Library Association has resolved to challenge CIPA in court;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska Library Association endorses and supports this legal action by the American Library Association.

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Adopted by the Alaska Library Association, March 10, 2001, Sitka.