

**RESOLUTION SUPPORTING AMERICAN LIBRARY
ASSOCIATION LEGAL ACTION AGAINST THE CHILDREN'S
INTERNET PROTECTION ACT (CIPA) AND
THE NEIGHBORHOOD CHILDREN'S INTERNET
PROTECTION ACT (NCIPA)**

WHEREAS, Congress has enacted the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA) mandating that libraries and schools install and use content filtering software on public Internet computers as a prerequisite to receiving federal funds for programs including Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA), the Elementary and Secondary Education Act and e-rate funds; and

WHEREAS, Congress has also enacted the Neighborhood Children's Internet Protection Act (NCIPA) mandating that libraries adopt a prescriptive Internet safety policy that undermines local control for recipients of e-rate discounts; and

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

WHEREAS, The federal Commission on Online Child Protection (COPA), which was appointed to study child safety on the Internet, concluded that filters are not effective in blocking all content that some may find objectionable, but do block much useful and constitutionally protected information; and

WHEREAS, Libraries are a crucial source of Internet-accessible information for all users, but especially and critically for the thousands of Mainers who do not have access to the Internet from a home or office computer; and

WHEREAS, Maine libraries and librarians are partners with parents and work to help their communities become information literate by teaching them to access, evaluate and use information; and

WHEREAS, The Maine library community strongly believes that educating parents and children to use the Internet wisely provides children their best protection, now and in the future; and

WHEREAS, Maine libraries have already adopted and implemented Internet use policies in the same way that they develop other policies, based on the needs of their communities; and

WHEREAS, The Maine Library Association does not recommend the use of Internet filters in libraries, and emphatically opposes attempts by federal and state governments to set local policy; and

WHEREAS, The Maine Library Association decided to become a plaintiff for the ACLU in an action opposing this legislation, and

WHEREAS, The American Library Association has resolved to challenge the constitutionality of CIPA and NCIPA in federal courts, and

WHEREAS, The Maine Library Association views its parallel legal action as one of independent support for ALA's position, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Maine Library Association supports this legal action by the American Library Association.

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Unanimously endorsed by the Maine Library Association Executive Board of Directors
March 9, 2001