

The Honorable John Ellis Bush
PL 05 The Capitol
400 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0001

VIA E-MAIL: jeb.bush@myflorida.com

RE: House Bill 79

Dear Governor Bush:

On behalf of the American Library Association, the Association of Research Libraries and the American Association of Law Libraries, we are writing to express our opposition to House Bill 79 that is currently awaiting your signature. We strongly support the comments detailed in the June 9, 2003 letter you received from the Florida Library Association.

Our associations are concerned about the underlying issues at stake if the many state bills like House Bill 79 become law. This legislation is another attempt by prominent copyright owners to criminalize any activity that they believe relates to digital piracy. While recognizing and deploring this problem, we cannot support legislation that does not fully take into account the many legitimate and good faith activities of researchers, libraries, consumers and business users. We do not believe that House Bill 79 goes far enough in this regard. Indeed, it criminalizes many such activities.

The American Library Association is a nonprofit educational organization of approximately 64,000 librarians, library educators, information specialists, library trustees, and friends of libraries representing public, school, state, and specialized libraries.

The Association of Research Libraries is a nonprofit association of 124 research libraries in North America including university, public, government, and national libraries whose mission is to influence the future of research libraries in the process of scholarly communication.

The American Association of Law Libraries is a nonprofit educational organization of over 5,000 members who respond to the legal information needs of legislators, judges, and other public officials at all levels of government, corporations and small businesses, law professors and students, attorneys, and members of the general public.

Please let us know if there is additional information that we can provide. Thank you in advance for your consideration of our concerns.

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