

CIPA Resolution

Adopted by the

California Library Association

Monday, April 23, 2001

WHEREAS, Congress has enacted the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA) mandating that libraries and schools install and use content blocking 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 blocking 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 blocking software is not effective in controlling content that some may find objectionable, but does 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 Californians who do not have access to the Internet from a home or office computer; and

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

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

WHEREAS, The California Library Association voted unanimously in February 2001 to join as a plaintiff for the ALA in an action opposing this legislation, and, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the California Library Association endorses and supports the American Library Association in this action.