

**A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE 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 filtering software on public Internet computers as a prerequisite to receiving federal funds for programs including the 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, Public and school libraries are a crucial source of Internet-accessible information for all users, but especially and critically for the thousands of Georgians who do not have access to the Internet from a home or office computer; and

WHEREAS, Georgia 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 Georgia Library Association supports the principles of open, free and unrestricted access to information and ideas, regardless of the format in which they appear, and

WHEREAS, The Georgia 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, The Georgia Library Association strongly encourages local libraries to adopt and implement Internet use policies in the same way they develop other policies based on the needs of their local communities, and

WHEREAS, The Georgia 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 American Library Association has resolved to challenge the constitutionality of CIPA and NCIPA in federal courts; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Georgia Library Association endorses and supports this legal action by the American Library Association.

Approved by unanimous vote of the Executive Board of the Georgia Library Association – April 20, 2001