

Resolution Supporting ALA Legal Action Against Federally Mandated Internet Filtering

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 funds; and

WHEREAS the recently enacted Neighborhood Children's Internet Protection Act (NCIPA) mandates the adoption of 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 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 Idaho library community strongly believes that educating children to use the Internet wisely provides children their best protection, now and in the future; and

WHEREAS the Idaho Library Association respects the rights of parents and legal guardians and encourages them to select those library resources and services they deem suitable for their own children; and

WHEREAS the Idaho 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 communities; and

WHEREAS thousands of Idahoans, 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 Idaho Library Association in keeping with its support of local control of libraries 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 and NCIPA in federal courts;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Idaho Library Association endorses and supports this legal action by the American Library Association, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Idaho Library Association transmit this resolution to Governor Kempthorne, Senators Craig and Crapo, and Representatives Otter and Simpson.

Passed 4/18/01