

Resolution Supporting ALA and Potential CIPA Litigation

WHEREAS, The Child 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 the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA), Title III of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, and the Universal Services program known as the E-rate; 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 U.S. Congress Commission on Online Child Protection 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, 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 Illinois 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 Illinois 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, The Illinois Library Association strongly opposes attempts by federal and state governments to set local policy; and

WHEREAS, The American Library Association has resolved to challenge CIPA in court; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Illinois Library Association endorses and supports the American Library Association in challenging the federally mandated use of Internet blocking software.

Thursday, 15 February 2001