

Resolution Supporting ALA Legal Action Against the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA)

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, ESEA and 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 federal Commission on Online Child Protection (COPA) 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 Indiana library community strongly believes that educating children to use the Internet wisely provides children their best protection; and

WHEREAS the Indiana Library Federation 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 Indiana Library Federation strongly supports the decisions of local library boards to set their own access policies to library materials, and emphatically opposes attempts by federal and state governments to set local policy; and

WHEREAS the American Library Association has resolved to challenge CIPA and NCIPA in federal courts;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Indiana Library Federation endorses and supports this legal action by the American Library Association;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Indiana Library Federation provides monetary support in the amount of \$2,000 to the American Library Association for use in the legal action against CIPA.

Approved by Indiana Library Federation Executive Board: 5/9/01