

**A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE
AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION
IN ITS LEGAL CHALLENGE TO
FEDERALLY MANDATED INTERNET FILTERS**

Adopted by the Minnesota Library Association

May 2001

WHEREAS, the recently enacted Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA) mandates that libraries and schools install and use filtering software on public computers as a prerequisite for receiving federal funds, including LSTA and E-rate funds; and

WHEREAS, the recently enacted Neighborhood Children's Protection Act (NCIPA) mandates the adoption of a prescriptive Internet safety policy that undermines local control for recipients of E-rate discounts; and

WHEREAS, the Commission on Online Protection (COPA) appointed to study 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, (Minnesota) 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, local libraries are strongly encouraged to adopt and implement Internet use policies in the same way they develop other policies, based on the need of the communities; and

WHEREAS, the American Library Association Council and Executive Board have resolved to challenge CIPA and NCIPA in federal courts;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Minnesota Library Association applauds, endorses and supports this legal action proposed by the American Library Association.