

Resolution in Support of the American Library Association Legal Action against the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA) and the Neighborhood Children's Internet Protection Act (NCIPA)

**Unanimously adopted by the Montana Library Association
April 25, 2001**

WHEREAS The Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA) and the Neighborhood Children's Internet Protection Act (NCIPA) mandate that public libraries and schools which receive federal funds, in support of public and school Internet access, including LSTA, e-rate, and ESEA, install and use " technological protective measures" (alternately known as filtering software or censorware), on computers to be used by their customers or students, 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 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 the Montana Library Association strongly opposes attempts by state and federal governments to set local policy; and

WHEREAS the Montana Library Association strongly believes that librarians and teachers educating children to use the Internet wisely, in partnership with parents, provides children their best protection, now and in the future; and

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

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

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Montana Library Association endorses and supports this legal action by the American Library Association.