

April 21, 2001
MPLA Board
Denver Colorado

RESOLUTION ON OPPOSITION TO 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 the Federal Commission appointed to study child safety on the Internet concluded filters are not effective in blocking all content that may be objectionable to some but may block constitutionally protected speech and information; and

WHEREAS libraries and librarians are partners with parents and legal guardians and work to help their communities to become information literate by teaching the access, evaluation and use of information; and

WHEREAS The Mountain Plains Library Association, consisting of school, public, academic and special librarians and libraries from twelve mid-Western and Western states, strongly supports the principles of open, free, and unrestricted access to information and ideas, regardless of format; and

WHEREAS The Mountain Plains Library Association supports the decisions of local libraries and their boards of trustees to set access policies and that of parents to select and monitor library resources they deem suitable for their own children; and

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

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

Adopted by the Mountain Plains Library Association Board
April 21, 2001

Linda M. Rea
President
Mountain Plains Library Association

(Date)