



A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING ALA, PFAW AND ACLU LEGAL ACTION AGAINST 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 certain federal funds, including LSTA AND E-rate funds; and

WHEREAS the recently enacted and 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 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 New Hampshire 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 New Hampshire 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 New Hampshire Library Association does not recommend the use of Internet filters in libraries, and emphatically opposes attempts by federal and state governments to set local policy; and

WHEREAS the American Library Association, the People for the American Way and the American Civil Liberties Union have all resolved to challenge CIPA and NCIPA in federal courts;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the New Hampshire Library Association endorses and supports this legal action by the ALA, PFAW and the ACLU.

Distribution:

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Unanimously adopted by the Executive Board of the New Hampshire Library Association, February 13, 2001.
Filename:IFC-7.doc