

**RESOLUTION SUPPORTING ALA'S LEGAL ACTION AGAINST THE
CHILDREN'S INTERNET PROTECTION ACT (CIPA) AND THE
NEIGHBORHOOD CHILDREN'S INTERNET PROTECTION ACT (NCIPA)**

WHEREAS the New Jersey Library Association affirms the right of all users to have unrestricted access to the Internet; and

WHEREAS the New Jersey Library Association affirms the right of libraries to make filtering software available to those who deliberately choose to use it; and

WHEREAS the New Jersey Library Association acknowledges the right of parents to determine the level of Internet access for their minor children; and

WHEREAS the New Jersey Library Association encourages every public library in New Jersey to adopt a local Internet Use Policy to reflect the needs of its community; and

WHEREAS the New Jersey Library Association opposes state or federal legislation that mandates filtering in libraries; and

WHEREAS the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA) and the Neighborhood Children's Internet Protection Act (NCIPA) contravenes these principles; and

WHEREAS Congress has enacted the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA) mandating that libraries and schools install and use content filtering software on all public and staff Internet computers as a prerequisite to receiving federal funds for programs, including the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA), the Elementary and Secondary Education Act and e-rate funds; and

WHEREAS Congress has also enacted the Neighborhood Children's Internet Protection Act (NCIPA) mandating that libraries adopt 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), which was 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 American Library Association has resolved to challenge CIPA and NCIPA in federal courts;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the New Jersey Library Association endorses and supports this legal action by the American Library Association.

Adopted by the New Jersey Library Association Executive Board, Tuesday, April 17, 2001