

## A Resolution Supporting Legal Action Against CIPA and NCIPA

WHEREAS the Library Bill of rights states that, “Libraries should challenge censorship in the fulfillment of their responsibility to provide information and enlightenment.”; and

WHEREAS the recently enacted Children’s Internet Protection Act (CIPA) and Neighborhood Children’s Internet Protection Act (NCIPA) direct libraries and schools to 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 no filtering software successfully differentiates constitutionally protected speech from illegal speech on the Internet; and

WHEREAS the Oregon Library Association has drafted “A Strategic Plan for Oregon Libraries through the Year 2010” affirming a vision of libraries guaranteeing “the impartial provision of information” and advocating “for freedom of information and the protection of individual privacy”; and

WHEREAS the Oregon Library Association adopted its “Statement on Internet Access” supporting “the principle of open, free, and unrestricted access to information and ideas in all formats,” a position “further strengthened by repeated Supreme Court rulings which state that information communicated over the Internet merits the highest level of constitutional protection”; and

WHEREAS the results of a survey, “Public Access to the Internet in Oregon Public Libraries” completed by the Oregon Library Association’s Intellectual Freedom Committee, demonstrate that most of Oregon’s public libraries have already adopted and implemented Internet use policies in the same way that they develop other policies, based on the needs of their communities; and

WHEREAS libraries are a crucial source of Internet-accessible information for all Oregon users, but especially those on the “have-not” side of the “digital divide” for whom access to the Internet via a home or office computer is not a reality; and

WHEREAS Oregon librarians already collaborate with parents and guardians to help children utilize the Internet safely and wisely now and in the future; and

WHEREAS Oregon libraries work to help their communities become information literate by teaching them to access, evaluate and use information; 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; now,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Oregon Library Association endorses and supports the American Library Association in its legal challenge to the constitutionality of the CIPA- and NCIPA-mandated filters for public and school libraries.

**Passed by the Oregon Library Association, May 18, 2001**