

RESOLUTION ON MOVING THE 1998 MIDWINTER CONFERENCE FROM COLORADO, CD#39, Exhibit 14. Councilors Elizabeth Futas and Gail P. Warner moved that the American Library Association move the site of its 1998 Midwinter Conference from the state of Colorado; and that this resolution be sent to the governor of the State of Colorado, the mayor of the city of Denver, the Colorado Board of Tourism, the national gay and lesbian press, and the national library press. The motion was later amended.

Speaking to the resolution, Councilor Futas said that in addition to the practical reasons for moving the 1998 conference, protecting the rights of all individuals was among the values and principles that librarians hold dear. She said only by protecting the rights of all individuals can we protect our democratic society. This resolution was endorsed by the Social Responsibilities Round Table's Gay and Lesbian Task Force.

Councilors Janet Swan Hill and Nancy M. Bolt moved to amend CD#39 in the first whereas by substituting after the word "approved" the phrase: "a state constitutional amendment that prohibits the state and jurisdictions within the state from passing laws that give protection to gay, lesbian and bisexual people as a special class," and in the second whereas, deleting the words "...outrageous and damaging...."

Speaking to the amendment, Councilor Hill said that Colorado Amendment 2 used the same language as in her proposed amendment. The state amendment did not, itself, say that Colorado wished to "negate and abolish the civil rights of lesbian, gay, and bisexual people," as was stated in the resolution. She said the confusion between her proposed wording and the resolution explained why Colorado Amendment 2 passed. She said that many of the people in Colorado believed that the Amendment was giving special rights to gays, lesbians, and bisexual people. It was only intended to give them equal rights. Therefore, it was her intent to make the resolution as accurate as possible. In the second whereas, she felt the words "outrageous and damaging" were inflammatory.

Patricia Glass Schuman, Immediate Past President, spoke against the proposed amendment and stated that Amendment 2 is the first law passed in this country that specifically excludes a class of people from civil rights. She also pointed out that the Executive Board had already decided not to come back to Colorado. She felt it would be wonderful if Council affirmed the decision not to come back to Colorado until Amendment 2 was rescinded.

Nancy M. Bolt, Councilor, Executive Board member, and seconder, moved to divide the question. By **CONSENT**, Council agreed to divide the question. Councilor Futas, originator of the resolution, rejected all the proposed amendments.

Speaking to the question to divide, Councilor Bolt said she did not want the Council to appear uninformed. She said that Councilor Hill's amendment did include the language used in Amendment 2, and further that Colorado residents did not vote to "negate and abolish" the civil rights of those mentioned in the resolution. She did agree that it was interpreted that way, but it was not what the voters of Colorado approved.

Councilor Joseph Boisse commended the Executive Board for its passage of a resolution to move the 1998 Midwinter Meeting and secondly, he spoke against the amendment on the floor. He said that whereas the resolution might be incomplete, it was certainly not inaccurate.

Councilor Charles Bunge, speaking in favor of the amendment, said that he supported the first half of the amendment, not because he worried about appearance, but for reasons of political strategy.

Councilors Michael J. Gorman and Rodney M. Hersberger moved and Council

VOTED, That the first whereas in CD#39 be amended to read:

"Whereas, the State of Colorado has approved an amendment to the State Constitution that states: "NO PROTECTED STATUS BASED ON HOMOSEXUAL, LESBIAN OR BISEXUAL ORIENTATION. Neither the State of Colorado, through any of its branches or departments, nor any of its agencies, political subdivisions, municipalities or school districts, shall enact, adopt or enforce any statute, regulation, ordinance or policy whereby homosexual, lesbian or bisexual orientation, conduct, practices or relationships shall constitute or otherwise be the basis of, or entitle any person or class of persons to have or claim any minority status quota preferences, protected status or claim of discrimination. This Section of the Constitution shall be in all respects self-executing."

Councilor Futas accepted the amendment and requested that it further read: "...a state constitutional amendment which in effect negates and abolishes the civil rights of lesbian, gay, and bisexual people."

Councilor Nancy M. Bolt moved that the second whereas be changed to read: "Whereas, *Amendment 2 can be interpreted* to negate and abolish..." Councilor Futas rejected the suggestion because, in her opinion, it was not a strong enough statement.

Councilor Richard Buck moved that the first whereas be changed to read: "Whereas, *Amendment 2 has the effect of negating and abolishing...*" Councilors Bolt and Futas accepted the change. Council then

VOTED, Whereas, Amendment 2 has the effect of negating and abolishing the civil rights of lesbian, gay, and bisexual people, and

The second part of the divided amendment, to delete the words "...outrageous and damaging..." from the now third whereas, was discussed. The motion was DEFEATED.

Councilors Rodney M. Hersberger and Gail P. Warner moved that CD#39 be amended to add a new first resolved clause that reads: "That the American Library Association condemns the spirit and effects of Colorado Amendment 2..." By CONSENT, Council accepted the amendment as the first resolved clause. Council then

VOTED, To adopt CD#39, Resolution on Moving the 1998 Midwinter Conference from Colorado, as amended.

AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION



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RESOLUTION ON MOVING THE 1998 MIDWINTER CONFERENCE FROM COLORADO

WHEREAS, The votes of the State of Colorado have approved Amendment 2: "NO PROTECTED STATUS BASED ON HOMOSEXUAL, LESBIAN OR BISEXUAL ORIENTATION. Neither the State of Colorado, through any of its branches of departments, nor any of its agencies, political subdivisions, municipalities or school districts, shall enact, adopt or enforce any statute, regulation, ordinance or policy whereby homosexual, lesbian or bisexual orientation, conduct, practices or relationships shall constitute or otherwise be the basis of, or entitle any person or class of persons to have or claim any minority status quota preferences, protected status or claim of discrimination. This Section of the Constitution shall be in all respect self-executing" a state constitutional amendment which in effect negates and abolishes the civil rights of lesbian, gay, and bisexual people; and

WHEREAS, Such outrageous and damaging official policy endangers not only lesbian, gay, and bisexual people, but all people; and

WHEREAS, The American Library Association has adopted several anti-bias policies, most notably 54.3 and 54.17, which commit the Association to equal opportunity for all persons regardless of individual life-style; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the American Library Association condemns the spirit and effects of Colorado Amendment 2; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the American Library Association move the site of its 1998 Midwinter Conference from the State of Colorado; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be sent to the Governor of the State of Colorado, the Mayor of the City of Denver, the Colorado Board of Tourism, the national gay and lesbian press, and the national library press.



**ADOPTED BY THE
COUNCIL OF THE AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION
January 26, 1993**

**Peggy Sullivan
Secretary to the ALA Council**