

TO: ALA Council

DATE: January 17, 2025

RE: *(select one)*

- ACTION REQUESTED**
- INFORMATION**
- REPORT**

ACTION REQUESTED/INFORMATION/REPORT: *(add below)*

Resolution on ALA Conference Locations and Equal Access to Emergency Medical Care

Action requested from Councilors is to cast their vote to: *(if applicable)*

Approve the Resolution on ALA Conference Locations and Equal Access to Emergency Medical Care

ACTION REQUESTED BY: Committee on the Status of Women in Librarianship

CONTACT PERSON: *Loida Garcia-Febo*

STAFF LIAISON CONTACT:

BACKGROUND: *(add information)*

Resolution on ALA Conference Locations and Equal Access to Emergency Medical Care

WHEREAS the American Library Association (ALA) is committed to fostering equity, diversity, and inclusion in its activities, including conference planning and site selection; and

WHEREAS the Committee on the Status of Women in Librarianship (COSWL) published a [statement](#) calling for Conference Site Reviews in Locations Limiting Women's Rights which was endorsed by the Association of College and Research Libraries Women and Gender Studies Section Executive Committee (ACRL-WGSS) and the ALA Social Responsibilities Round Table (SRRT)

WHEREAS the ALA Committee on the Status of Women in Librarianship (COSWL) called on the ALA Executive Board to "take expeditious action in support of women and people who are pregnant related to the matter of ALA continuing to host conferences in states where a large portion of our attendees, if in a medical crisis, may not be able to receive appropriate emergency medical care."

WHEREAS "while the committee understands contractual obligations to have conference sites booked far in advance, we request that the conference committee explore considering the location of a conference site with local limitations on women's rights, when selecting future locations to ensure that all ALA members have equal access to emergency medical care if needed."

WHEREAS the [ALA Social Responsibilities Round Table \(SRRT\)](#) has expressed concerns regarding hosting ALA conferences in states where restrictive laws may limit access to emergency medical care for women and pregnant individuals; and

RESOLVED that the American Library Association (ALA) Executive Board take expeditious action to address concerns raised by COSWL, **ACRL-WGSS, and SRRT** by:

1. Reviewing current conference site selection processes to incorporate considerations for access to emergency medical care, particularly in states with restrictive laws impacting women and pregnant individuals.
2. Exploring and prioritizing conference locations that align with ALA's core values of equity and inclusion, ensuring all attendees have equal access to necessary medical care.
3. Providing a transparent report on the steps taken to address these concerns and how ALA will mitigate risks for attendees in the future.

Endorsed in principle:

ACRL-WGSS

SRRT

RAINBOW RT