

Resolution on Body Autonomy, Equity and ALA Conference Sites

Whereas ALA's core values include privacy and social responsibility, and it considers equity a strategic direction¹;

Whereas several states in recent years have passed far reaching legislation restricting abortion, reproductive rights, healthcare decisions and body autonomy, endangering the lives and wellbeing of not only residents, but anyone who travels to these states who may find themselves subject to their restrictive laws;

Whereas in last week's decision in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* the US Supreme Court has overturned over 40 years of precedent and removed any constitutional protections for abortion, with ominous signs that rights such as access to birth control and marriage equality are also in danger of being overturned²

Whereas ALA has historically upheld its values by putting in place policies against holding meetings in cities, states and venues which do not recognize the rights of all its members, and by refusing to do business with organizations which do not treat all ALA members equally³ and

Whereas it is the executive board's duty and responsibility to weigh these concerns among all the other duties and responsibilities in its purview and act in the most responsible manner for the good of all its members, now, therefor, be it

Resolved that the American Libraries Association on behalf of its members:

1. reaffirms its longstanding policy of insisting on equitable treatment of all its members wherever ALA meetings are held;
2. will schedule conferences only in states and cities that recognize the right to abortion and put no undue restriction on reproductive rights, healthcare decisions or bodily autonomy and
3. will cancel and reschedule conferences with as minimal financial impact as possible to honor this vital concern.

Mover: Tara Brady, SRRT Councilor

Seconder: Eileen Palmer, New Jersey Chapter Councilor

¹ <https://www.ala.org/aboutala/>

² <https://www.politico.com/news/2022/06/24/thomas-constitutional-rights-00042256>

³ https://www.ala.org/rt/sites/ala.org/rt/files/content/SRRT/Resolutions/1977/1977_EAandConferenceSites.pdf, https://www.ala.org/rt/sites/ala.org/rt/files/content/SRRT/Resolutions/1993/1993_ConferenceSiteContracts_FINAL.pdf, <https://muse.jhu.edu/article/55066>