

**RESOLUTION ON 2016 MISSISSIPPI PROTECTING FREEDOM OF CONSCIENCE FROM GOVERNMENT
DISCRIMINATION ACT**

*Adopted by the Executive Board of the Mississippi Library Association
May 6, 2016*

Whereas the Mississippi Library Association, a nonprofit professional association, is committed to the ethical principles to provide equitable service policies and access to accurate, unbiased resources; and to distinguish between our personal convictions and professional duties and not allow our personal beliefs to interfere with the provision of access to library services;

Whereas the Mississippi Protecting Freedom of Conscience from Government Discrimination Act includes the provision that public employees may engage in speech or expressive conduct based upon their sincerely held religious beliefs or moral convictions related to marriage, sexuality, and gender; and

Whereas speech or expressive conduct by library employees that is directed at library users based on a user's marriage status, sexuality, or gender could deter library users from seeking access to information services in Mississippi's publicly funded public, school, community college, or university libraries; now, therefore be it

Resolved, that the Mississippi Library Association (MLA):

1. reaffirms the role of librarians to provide service to all of our community members without discrimination or bias and to distinguish between our personal convictions and professional duties;
2. opposes the Mississippi Protecting Freedom of Conscience from Government Discrimination Act on the basis that it contradicts the fundamental values of the library community to provide unbiased and courteous responses to all requests for information services; and
3. supports library environments that are safe and welcoming for all.