

EXECUTIVE ORDERS RESTRICTING THE RIGHT TO KNOW

- WHEREAS President Reagan has issued a number of executive orders which directly and indirectly restrict access to information and, therefore, the public's right to know, and
- WHEREAS one of those executive orders, The Presidential Directive on Safeguarding National Security Information of March 11, 1983 requires hundreds of thousands of government employees in the executive branch to sign lifetime nondisclosure agreements and to submit all writings and speeches to official censors for prior review, and
- WHEREAS this directive will gravely restrict the flow of information which public citizens need in order to engage in consideration, debate and voting on issues relating to the national government; Now therefore be it
- RESOLVED, That the ALA record its official objection to the Presidential Directive on Safeguarding National Security Information of March 11, 1983, and be it further
- RESOLVED, That ALA send a copy of its objection to that directive to President Reagan with a request that it be rescinded, and be it further
- RESOLVED, That ALA initiate and/or join with other groups to support efforts in the courts and the Congress to have that directive countermanded, and be it further
- RESOLVED, That ALA publicize its actions in the general press as well as the library press, and be it further
- RESOLVED, That ALA urge its members and interested citizens to send letters to their legislators informing them of the present danger to the right to know and requesting legislation that will nullify presidential orders which threaten that traditional right, and be it further
- RESOLVED, That ALA urge librarians to renew their efforts to inform their communities of the dangers that threaten the right to know. These efforts should include the use of exhibits, programs, and other traditional library methods.

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