

Resolution on Faster FOIA Act

WHEREAS, The American Library Association (ALA) supports the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) as a guarantor of principles fundamental to a democratic society: the people's right to know, the free flow of ideas, and public access to government information (89.01.11 #38 W1); and

WHEREAS, Backlogs of unfilled requests are a longstanding problem in agency implementation of the FOIA and the conditions and practices that create those backlogs are not fully understood; and

WHEREAS, The Presidential Memorandum on Freedom of Information reestablishes a presumption of information requested under the FOIA and President Obama has stated that "every agency and department should know that this administration stands on the side not of those who seek to withhold information, but those who seek to make it known;" and

WHEREAS, The Senate has passed S. 3111 and the House has introduced H.R. 5087, which both address impediments to the efficient processing of FOIA requests; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the American Library Association (ALA):

1. Commends the U.S. Senate for its quick passage of S. 3111, the Faster FOIA Act on April 15, 2010; and
2. Urges the U.S. House of Representatives to quickly pass the Faster FOIA Act of 2010, H.R. 5087.

Adopted by the Council of the American Library Association
Tuesday, June 29, 2010
In Washington, DC



Keith Michael Fiels
ALA Executive Director and
Secretary to the ALA Council