

RESOLUTION ON LSTA REAUTHORIZATION

- WHEREAS,** the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) passed in 1996, as Subtitle B of the Museum and Library Services Act, consolidated federal aid programs; provided for maximum flexibility; continued the successful state-based model of its predecessor (LSCA); and simplified purposes to include two major components: a) technology, networking, and resource sharing, and b) service to people in rural and urban areas who have difficulty using a library with a special emphasis on children in poverty; and
- WHEREAS,** the Library Services and Technology Act in its first three years has played a significant role in extending public access to the Internet and the World Wide Web; has enabled libraries to forge new partnerships with a wide variety of organizations in extending library and information services; and has been the source of significant innovation in serving the needs of people who have difficulty using a library; and
- WHEREAS,** the Institute of Museum and Library Services, as administrator of the Museum and Library Services Act, has played an integral part in creating an environment that fosters successful federal, state and local partnerships vital to the continued enhancement of library services in the United States; and
- WHEREAS,** the national library community recognizes that there are many unmet needs in improving library services in all types of libraries; in facilitating access to resources in libraries toward an educated and informed population; and encouraging resource sharing among libraries toward economic and efficient delivery of library services to the public; and
- WHEREAS,** the national library community recognizes that a lack of sufficient funding for the Library Services and Technology Act has limited the potential and promise of the legislation in consolidating federal aid as originally envisioned by Congress; and
- WHEREAS,** a Coalition on LSTA Reauthorization, representing major library organizations, was formed in fiscal year 2000, to develop broad-based support for the reauthorization of the Library Services and Technology Act predicated on significant increases in funding for the Act's purposes in meeting identified needs; now, therefore, be it
- RESOLVED** that the American Library Association support a timely reauthorization of the Library Services and Technology Act at not less than \$500 million, to address identified unmet needs within a framework of a state-based flexible program; enhance a framework of evaluation and accountability; and, provide increased resources for national leadership assistance as described in the Act; and be it further

RESOLVED that the American Library Association affirm its commitment to work with the Administration and Congress and other interested groups expected to make recommendations concerning federal library programs toward a reauthorized Library Services and Technology Act.

Sponsored by: Committee on Legislation

Proposed by: Coalition on LSTA Authorization

Endorsed by: Association for Library Trustees and Advocates

Public Library Association

Association of Specialized and Cooperative Library Agencies

American Association of School Librarians

Young Adults Library Services Association

Library Administration and Management Association

Association of College and Research Libraries

Government Documents Round Table

Federal and Armed Forces Libraries Round Table

Chief Officers of State Library Agencies

Policy: #51.5

Prior History: CD#20.1, January 24, 1996 and CD #20.11, June 28, 1995