

RESOLUTION IN RESPONSE TO A NATION AT RISK

- WHEREAS, the American Library Association wishes to acknowledge its appreciation for the thoughtful assessment of American education in A NATION AT RISK, the report of the National Commission on Excellence in Education; and
- WHEREAS, the Association has long recognized the compelling need to address serious deficiencies in our American educational system, particularly those affecting the development of literacy and computational skills among American youth; and
- WHEREAS, the Association represents a profession which is in itself being radically changed by the computerization of informational flow facilitated by the changing technologies of the "Information Age," a process demanding new competencies to be learned by America's young people; and
- WHEREAS, the Association reflects the concerns of librarians and users of libraries, be they in schools, public libraries, or in academic institutions, whose lives and careers are intimately and inextricably connected to the goals of a "Learning Society;" and
- WHEREAS, the library and media centers of our nation's schools, although in many ways uniquely adapted to the inculcation of study skills for children and young people, find their mission eroded by declining appropriations and a lack of expenditures for even the most basic materials; and
- WHEREAS, the nation's public libraries, historically the primary site to address the lifelong learning needs of the American population, have also witnessed the erosion of their historic mission, as budgets are diminished, community branches closed, or hours of opening strictly curtailed; and
- WHEREAS, the Association commends the Commission's recommendations for strengthening the graduation requirements of our nation's young people and the adoption of higher standards for academic performance and student conduct, recommendations which cannot be enforced without the substantive use of library resources; and
- WHEREAS, the Association believes it important to stress that public education and the library and learning resources which support that public education should remain a priority for funding at all levels of government, local, state, and national; and
- WHEREAS, the Association views with concern the continuance of an Administration position that library programs require no Federal funds; NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT
- RESOLVED, that the American Library Association, as one of the many societies on whom the Commission calls for help in the dissemination of its findings, pledge its support to that end; and BE IT FURTHER
- RESOLVED, that the American Library Association pledge the support of school, public, academic, and special librarians in undertaking the reform of American education and the betterment of the educational experience of American youth.

Adopted by the Council of the  
American Library Association  
Los Angeles, California  
June 29, 1983  
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