WHEREAS the U.S. Department of Education reports that nearly 48 million students use a school library media center each week in more than 93,000 public and private schools across the country;

WHEREAS the majority of school library media specialists are educated in programs eligible only for accreditation by the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE);

WHEREAS it is essential for ALA to have input into the graduate education preparation of all school library media personnel;

WHEREAS NCATE has recently changed its membership structure to encourage the involvement of professional specialty organizations, e.g., "library/media, school psychologists, counselors" in evaluating teacher education programs;

WHEREAS the forthcoming guidelines for school library media programs will specify, a full-time library media specialist for every school and graduate level education for all professional personnel;

Be it resolved that:

ALA join the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) as a specialty organization and that ALA delegate to AASL the responsibility for participation in the NCATE accreditation process as it relates to graduate school library media education programs which are eligible only for NCATE accreditation.

ALA Units which support concept:
ACRL  ALSC  COA  LAMA  LITA  PLA  YASD

Mover:  Helen Lloyd Snoke  AASL Councilor

Seconder:  Pat R. Scales, Councilor-at-Large

Prior history of Resolution: Related to but not in conflict with policy 56.1.

Disposition of Resolution: ALA Executive Director should implement the membership in NCATE through formal application and payment of membership fee.