RESOLUTION ON CONGRESSIONAL RESEARCH SERVICE PUBLICATIONS

WHEREAS, equitable and timely access to information created by the government is an important tenet of a free and democratic society; and

WHEREAS, Title 44 of the U.S. Code mandates provision of publications to Federal Depository Libraries; and

WHEREAS, the 104th and 105th Congresses have made a concerted effort to increase public access to Congressional information through the Internet; and

WHEREAS, the Congressional Research Service (CRS) produces reports and information products at the request of Members of Congress; and

WHEREAS, CRS reports are well researched and balanced products addressing a wide variety of current issues; and

WHEREAS, the CRS produces and Congress releases reports that are not made available to the Government Printing Office for distribution to Federal Depository Libraries nor made available to the public on the Internet; and

WHEREAS, many of these reports are released to various individuals or groups by Members of Congress but not made available to the public; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the American Library Association urge that the Joint Committee on the Library, the Senate Rules and Administration Committee, and the House Oversight Committee take immediate action to assure that publicly released Congressional Research Service reports and information products are distributed in a timely manner to the general public through Federal Depository Libraries and on the Internet.

Adopted by the Council of the
American Library Association
New Orleans, LA
January 14, 1998