

RESOLUTION IN OPPOSITION TO THE ANTI-OBSCENITY PLEDGE REQUIREMENT  
OF THE NATIONAL ENDOWMENTS FOR THE ARTS AND HUMANITIES

Whereas, The American Library Association supports the First Amendment rights of all Americans to free expression in its Library Bill of Rights and Freedom to Read Statement; and,

Whereas, The United States Congress adopted a set of instructions for the National Endowment for the Arts and National Endowment for the Humanities under the Helms' Amendment in July of 1989, which mandates the exclusion of grant funds to promote, disseminate, or produce materials that "may be considered obscene"; and,

Whereas, The National Endowment for the Arts now requires grant applicants to sign an "anti-obscenity" pledge; and,

Whereas, The pledge constitutes a form of prior restraint that is antithetical to American traditions and constitutional rights; and,

Whereas, The pledge is unconstitutionally vague and goes beyond the Supreme Court definition of obscenity; now, therefore be it

Resolved, That the American Library Association urge the United States Congress and the National Endowment for the Arts to eliminate this requirement for an anti-obscenity pledge; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Endowments' authorizing and appropriating committees of the U.S. Congress.

Adopted by the ALA Council, June 27, 1990