

*Council
Adopted
7/1/92*

**Resolution on Reauthorization of the
Corporation for Public Broadcasting**

WHEREAS, the Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB) and its divisions and affiliates represent a unique democratic institution; and

WHEREAS, the CPB provides educational and informational programs which often would not be produced or broadcast on commercial television; and

WHEREAS, Congress created the Independent Television Service (ITVS) in 1988, which is funded by CPB, to bring more innovation and minority representation to public television; and

WHEREAS, The ITVS was established to develop the work of independent U.S. producers who traditionally have felt constrained by corporate sponsorship and by the typical public television series format; and

WHEREAS, The principle established by the Supreme Court in Rust v. Sullivan, if applied to the funding of the CPB or ITVS, could restrict the content of their programming, thereby adversely affecting public access to information; and

WHEREAS, Article III of the LIBRARY BILL OF RIGHTS states, "Libraries should challenge censorship in the fulfillment of their responsibility to provide information and enlightenment;" and

WHEREAS, H.R. 2977, which reauthorizes the CPB, was amended by the Senate to include a clause which restricts commercial and non-commercial broadcasters from airing programs described as "indecent" between 6:00 a.m. and midnight; and

WHEREAS, The indecency standard unconstitutionally restricts speech protected by the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution and demonstrates a government interest in controlling the content of television programming which is funded by the government; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the American Library Association support the reauthorization of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting without restrictions on the scheduling or content of programming developed by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting or the Independent Television Service; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to appropriate congressional committees and the chairman of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting.

Adopted by the Intellectual Freedom Committee
Endorsed by the Committee on Legislation
June 30, 1992