

Adopted
General 7/2/91

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING ACCESS TO INFORMATION
ON FAMILY PLANNING AND ABORTION

- WHEREAS, 1988 regulations under Title X of the Family Planning Services and Population Act of 1970 prohibit doctors in federally funded family planning programs from exercising their First Amendment right to discuss the option of abortion; and
- WHEREAS, These regulations have been upheld in the United States Supreme Court decision in Rust v. Sullivan, a case which involved a challenge to these regulations as a violation of the doctor/patient relationship and of the First Amendment right to free speech; and
- WHEREAS, The American Library Association and the Freedom to Read Foundation filed an *amicus* brief in support of the principle of an unrestricted First Amendment right to disseminate and receive information; and
- WHEREAS, The Supreme Court decision specifically states that ". . . an indigent woman's ability to enjoy the full range of constitutionally protected freedom of choice are the product not of governmental restrictions on access to abortion, but rather of her indigency," and this statement violates the intent of Article V of the LIBRARY BILL OF RIGHTS; and
- WHEREAS, As a result of this decision, attempts may be made by interests at federal, state, or local levels of government to impose similar restrictions on other publicly supported agencies, including libraries, which provide access to information relating to family planning and abortion; now, therefore be it
- RESOLVED, That the American Library Association reaffirm the responsibility of librarians to provide access to all information relating to family planning, abortion, and other issues regardless of viewpoint; and be it further
- RESOLVED, That the American Library Association reaffirm its opposition to attempts at any level of government to restrict access to such information in violation of the LIBRARY BILL OF RIGHTS; and be it further
- RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be sent to the Secretary of Health and Human Services, the American Medical Association, the President of the College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, and appropriate Congressional bodies.

Adopted by the Intellectual Freedom Committee
July 2, 1991

Endorsed by the Legislation Committee