

RESOLUTION ON THE CHILD PROTECTION AND OBSCENITY ENFORCEMENT
ACT OF 1988

WHEREAS, The First Amendment to the U. S. Constitution protects the freedom of all to read and view; and

WHEREAS, The American Library Association policy #53.4, Governmental Intimidation, an Interpretation of the Library Bill of Rights states:

The American Library Association opposes any use of governmental prerogatives which leads to the intimidation of the individual or the citizenry from the exercise of free expression.

and,

WHEREAS, The American Library Association policy #53.1, Library Bill of Rights states:

1. ...Materials should not be excluded because of the origin, background, or views of those contributing to their creation, and

2. Libraries should provide materials and information presenting all points of view on current and historical issues. Materials should not be proscribed or removed because of partisan or doctrinal disapproval;

and,

WHEREAS, The ALA Intellectual Freedom Committee has documented the "chilling effect" on libraries and librarians by the Report of the Attorney General's Commission on Pornography since its release; and

WHEREAS, Legislation pending before the U. S. Congress (the Child Protection and Obscenity Enforcement Act of 1988, H.R. 3889, S. 2033) is a follow-up of recommendations in the above Report and will threaten libraries and librarians with confiscation of their collections and assets and librarians with criminal prosecution; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the American Library Association strongly oppose the Child Protection and Obscenity Enforcement Act of 1988, S. 2033, H.R. 3889.

Adopted by the Council of the
American Library Association
New Orleans, Louisiana
July 13, 1988
(Council Document #77.2)