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SHIELD LAWS

WHEREAS, The privilege of authors, journalists and broadcasters to protect the confidentiality of their sources of information is an accepted principle in the United States, and

WHEREAS, This privilege has come under frequent attack in the courts, resulting in the abridgement of freedom of information, and in the harassment and/or jailing of reporters and writers who decline to disclose their sources; and

WHEREAS, The LIBRARY BILL OF RIGHTS cannot be implemented when information is being suppressed at its source, and

WHEREAS, the United States Congress and state legislatures from time to time consider measures, commonly known as shield laws, intended to establish by statute the privilege of confidentiality, now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the American Library Association supports the enactment by Congress of a broad and effective federal shield law, and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Association exhorts its chapters to work vigorously for the enactment of broad and effective shield laws in every state.

Adopted by the Intellectual Freedom Committee
June 27, 1992

reaffirmed
Adopted by the ALA Council
at the 1992 Annual Conf., July 1, 1992
Adopted Feb. 1973

AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

Item: INTELLECTUAL FREEDOM Item Number: 103.10
Approved by: ALA Council Page: 1 of 1
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Shield laws

WHEREAS, The privilege of authors, journalists and broadcasters to protect the confidentiality of their sources of information is a generally accepted principle in the United States, and

WHEREAS, This privilege has recently come under severe attack in the courts, resulting in the jailing of reporters and the infringement of freedom of information, and

WHEREAS, The LIBRARY BILL OF RIGHTS cannot be implemented when information is being suppressed at its source, and

WHEREAS, The United States Congress and numerous state legislatures are presently considering measures, commonly known as shield laws, that would clearly establish by statute the privilege of confidentiality,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the American Library Association strongly supports the enactment by Congress of a broad and effective federal shield law,

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Association exhorts its chapters to work vigorously for the enactment of similarly broad and effective shield laws in every state.