

AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION
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RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR HEAD START AND LIBRARY PARTNERSHIPS

- WHEREAS,** Support and development of Head Start was specifically recommended in the Omnibus Children and Youth Literacy through Libraries initiative approved by the White House Conference on Library and Information Services in 1991; and
- WHEREAS,** ALA Council voted to work toward implementation of the Youth initiative as one of the three top priorities of ALA; and
- WHEREAS,** Libraries represented by the Library of Congress and the Association of Library Services to Children, a division of ALA, have since May 1992 carried out a Library-Head Start Program Partnership, a national project designed to train children's librarians and Head Start staff to work more closely together to provide greater enhanced or newly initiated services to at-risk children, their parents/caregivers, and teachers; and
- WHEREAS,** The reauthorization of Head Start in 1994 cited public and school libraries as agencies that could aid Head Start to carry out its mandates for family literacy and parent training; and
- WHEREAS,** Both Head Start officials and children's librarians around the country report significant success in forging these partnerships for increasing pre-school learning; fostering emergent literacy and empowering parents/caregivers to take an active role in reinforcing their children's learning; and
- WHEREAS,** Cuts in Head Start's overall budget could result in eliminating Head Start's interagency agreement and provision of these training grants to libraries; now, therefore, be it
- RESOLVED,** That the American Library Association support maintenance of at least current funding for Head Start, emphasizing especially the ongoing partnership of libraries with Head Start for at-risk children, their parents/caregivers, and teachers to ensure mental development, language skills, and other early learning; and, be it further
- RESOLVED,** That this resolution be sent to the U.S. Congress, Health and Human Services Department, and Head Start Bureau officials.

Adopted by the Council of the
American Library Association
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
February 8, 1995
(Council Document 20.4)