

approved
1/27/87

ENGLISH AS CALIFORNIA'S OFFICIAL LANGUAGE AND ITS IMPACT ON LIBRARY SERVICE

- WHEREAS, The voters of California in the last election, voted to endorse English as the official language of California; and
- WHEREAS, California librarians discussed the new Constitutional Amendment and its impact on current library services in great detail at the annual conference of the California Library Association in November, 1986, and
- WHEREAS, California's population includes a substantial segment for whom English language ~~skills~~ are limited or non-existent; and
- WHEREAS, California's libraries have had a long tradition of serving this population, and consider that the provision of information and library materials in languages other than English is necessary to enable recent immigrants and other non-English speaking residents of the State to participate in and contribute to the cultural and social enrichment of California, and
- WHEREAS, The Membership of the California Library Association resolved therefore, "that the provision of library services, programs, and materials in languages other than English is a valid and essential service to the community and residents of California", and further, "that a copy of the Resolution be forwarded to the director of each library in California, the Governor, the Governor's Cabinet, other elected state-level officials, and every member of the California Legislature;" and
- WHEREAS, It has been reported in the press that more than thirty States have asked California proponents of "English-Only" for guidance, and that lawmakers from Arizona, New Mexico, Texas, and Florida are especially interested in such a bill for their States; and
- WHEREAS, The Council of the California Library Association feels that this is a matter which should be discussed by the Council of the American Library Association; and
- WHEREAS, ALA Policy 1.3 states: "ALA will promote efforts to ensure that every individual has access to needed information at the time needed and in a format the individual can utilize, through the provision of library and information services;" NOW THEREFORE BE IT
- RESOLVED, That ALA supports its California Chapter with regard to the provision of library services to non-English speaking; and BE IT FURTHER
ers
- RESOLVED, That ALA will support ^{any} any of its Chapters ^{ers} who may find it necessary in the future to make a like statement with regard to library services to the non-English speaking.
ers

Gil McNamee

Moved by: Gil McNamee
California Chapter Councilor

Seconded by: *Carol Starr*
Carol Starr
Councilor-at-Large

ALA POLICIES 1.1; 1.2; 1.3; 52.2