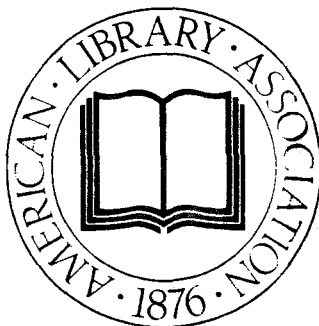


AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION  
WASHINGTON OFFICE



110 MARYLAND AVENUE N.E. WASHINGTON, DC 20002-5675 U.S.A.  
202-547-4440 FAX: 202-547-7363 ALAWASH@ALAWASH.ORG

**RESOLUTION CONCERNING THE EXON AMENDMENT TO THE  
TELECOMMUNICATIONS ACT OF 1995**

- WHEREAS,** The Exon/Coats Amendment (#1362) S. 652, the Telecommunications Act of 1995, imposes criminal penalty for the transmission of speech that is constitutionally protected; and
- WHEREAS,** The definitions of the prohibited speech are vague and overboard; and
- WHEREAS,** The Amendment imposes the penalty for transmission of speech that is merely "indecent" when received by any person under 18 years of age; and
- WHEREAS,** The chilling effect of the Amendment would limit what is available to adults on the basis of what is appropriate for minors; and
- WHEREAS,** This Amendment applies to any telecommunications facility, system, or network, including any library, that is used for the transmission of speech proscribed by the Amendment; and
- WHEREAS,** The international scope and technical complexity of these telecommunications would make implementation of the Amendment extraordinarily cumbersome, if not impossible; and
- WHEREAS,** Users have the power to choose what information they will and will not retrieve; and
- WHEREAS,** American Library Association Policy #53.1, *Library Bill of Rights*, states that "Libraries should challenge censorship in the fulfillment of their responsibility to provide information and enlightenment," and "A person's right to use a library should not be denied or abridged because of origin, age, background, or views." Now, therefore, be it
- RESOLVED,** That the American Library Association opposes the enactment of the Exon/Coats Amendment (#1362) to S. 652, the Telecommunications Act of 1995; and, be it further
- RESOLVED,** That the American Library Association transmit this resolution as appropriate.

Adopted by the Council of the  
American Library Association  
Chicago, Illinois  
June 28, 1995  
(Council Document 19.5)