



RESOLUTION IN OPPOSITION TO ELECTRONIC REDLINING

WHEREAS, The United States Congress is considering new telecommunications legislation to revise the Communications Act of 1934; and

WHEREAS, The Senate has passed S. 652, The Telecommunications Competition and Deregulation Act of 1995; and

WHEREAS, H.R. 1555, The Communications Act of 1995, will soon be debated on the floor of the House of Representatives; and

WHEREAS, It is in the public interest to provide fair and affordable access to all Americans to the information superhighway, including access to advanced telecommunications services which should include, but not be limited to, video platform services, cable television, voice telephony and other two-way interactive services; and

WHEREAS, Electronic redlining denies access to telecommunications services based upon the race, ethnicity, or income of a community, thus denying access to the information superhighway and promoting a system of "information haves" and "information have-nots"; and

WHEREAS, America's libraries are users and providers of electronic information which requires fair and affordable access to telecommunications services in order to serve the American public in all types of libraries; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the American Library Association goes on record in opposition to electronic redlining and urge Congress to include strong anti-redlining provisions which uphold the principles of equal access and universal service as it develops new telecommunications legislation; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That such legislation should also require community input and evaluation in the process of determining community electronic redlining by providers.

Adopted by the Council of the
American Library Association
Chicago, Illinois
June 28, 1995
(Council Document 20.21)