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**RESOLUTION ON SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED  
GOVERNMENT INFORMATION**

**WHEREAS**, the people's right of access to government information is the cornerstone of our democratic society; and

**WHEREAS**, public access to government information is vital to maintaining government accountability; and

**WHEREAS**, the Memorandum from the Information Security Oversight Office and the Office of Information and Privacy, Department of Justice on "Safeguarding Information Regarding Weapons of Mass Destruction and Other Sensitive Records Related to Homeland Security," issued March 19, 2002, accompanying the Memorandum on "Action to Safeguard Information Regarding Weapons of Mass Destruction and Other Sensitive Documents Related to Homeland Security" issued by Andrew Card, requests that all department and agencies take necessary and appropriate actions to safeguard sensitive but unclassified information and process Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests for records containing such information in accordance with the Attorney General's FOIA Memorandum of October 12, 2001; and

**WHEREAS**, "sensitive but unclassified" has no legal or statutory definition; and

**WHEREAS**, the American Library Association supports public access to information; and

**WHEREAS**, the American Library Association recognizes the federal government's legitimate interest in protecting national security and public safety while preserving the public's right to know; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, that the American Library Association urge the Information Security Oversight Office and the Office of Information and Privacy, Department of Justice to remove the "Sensitive but Unclassified" provisions from the Memorandum of March 19<sup>th</sup>; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that ALA urge government agencies to ensure that public access to government information is maintained absent specific compelling and documented national security or public safety concerns.

Adopted by the Council of the  
American Library Association  
Atlanta, GA  
June 19, 2002

Wm R. Gordon  
Secretary of the ALA Council