

2002-2003 CD #20.8
2003 ALA Annual Meeting

**RESOLUTION COMMENDING MEMBERS OF CONGRESS
FOR SUPPORTING CIVIL LIBERTIES**

WHEREAS, the American Library Association opposes any use of governmental power to suppress the free and open exchange of knowledge and information or to intimidate individuals exercising free inquiry, and

WHEREAS, H.R. 1157, "Freedom to Read Protection Act," and S. 1158, "The Library and Bookseller Protection Act," would exempt bookstores and libraries from Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act court orders of the USA PATRIOT Act (section 215) requiring the production of "tangible things" (books, records, documents and papers) for foreign intelligence operations, and

WHEREAS, S. 1158 additionally would exempt libraries from being considered "wire or electronic communication service providers" under Section 2709 of Title 18 of the U.S. Code that provides for counterintelligence access to certain records through administrative rather than judicial process, and

WHEREAS, S. 436, "The Domestic Surveillance Act of 2003" and H. R. 2429, "The Surveillance Oversight and Disclosure Act" would require greater reporting by the Justice Department on USA PATRIOT Act activities including special reports about how library records are obtained and used, now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the American Library Association commends members of Congress who are sponsoring legislation that preserves and protects civil liberties, and, be it further

RESOLVED, that the American Library Association urges Congress to support the principles and provisions of H.R. 1157, "Freedom to Read Protection Act," H. R. 2429, "The Surveillance Oversight and Disclosure Act," S. 436, "The Domestic Surveillance Act of 2003" and S. 1158, "The Library and Bookseller Protection Act"; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that the American Library Association urges the chairs of the Senate and House Judiciary Committees to hold hearings on proposed amendments to the USA PATRIOT Act and invite librarians and booksellers to testify, and, be it further

RESOLVED, that this resolution be forwarded to the President of the United States, to the Attorney General of the United States, to the chairs of the Senate and House Judiciary Committees and to all members of Congress.

Adopted by the Council of the
American Library Association
Philadelphia, PA
June 25, 2003

Keith Fiels
Secretary of the ALA Council