

## **Resolution on Funding for the National Library Service**

- WHEREAS, Since 1931, the United States Congress has supported a national library accessible to people who are blind; and
- WHEREAS, In 1966, Congress authorized the Library of Congress' National Library Service to provide Talking Books services to all persons who could not read standard print because of visual or physical disability; and
- WHEREAS, The National Library Service's current audiocassette technology, which was introduced in 1971, is obsolete; and
- WHEREAS, The current audiocassette machines are no longer being manufactured; and
- WHEREAS, The National Library Service has developed a plan to convert to up-to-date digital technology; and
- WHEREAS, The National Library Service needs the \$19.1 million it requested for the first year of this multi-year project in order to obtain this goal; and
- WHEREAS, There have been congressional proposals to allocate only some of the funds needed toward the project; and
- WHEREAS, Any shortfall jeopardizes library service to the more than 750,000 people in the United States who rely upon this service for access to reading material; and
- WHEREAS, Veterans who have been injured and are returning from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan will need this service; and
- WHEREAS, The American Library Association has adopted a statement of core values and that Access (for all) and Democracy (the need for an informed citizenry), are two of these values; now, therefore, be it
- RESOLVED That the American Library Association call upon Congress to fund the \$19.1 million needed for the first year of the National Library Service's multi-year digitization project to convert to up-to-date digital technology, thereby preserving Talking Books services to people with visual or physical disability.

Adopted by the Council of the American Library Association  
Tuesday, June 26, 2007  
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