

# AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

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## RESOLUTION ON SHIELD LAWS

WHEREAS, The privilege of authors, journalists and broadcasters to protect the confidentiality of their sources of information is a generally accepted principle in the United States, and

WHEREAS, This privilege has recently come under severe attack in the courts, resulting in the jailing of reporters and the infringement of freedom of information, and

WHEREAS, The LIBRARY BILL OF RIGHTS cannot be implemented when information is being suppressed at its source, and

WHEREAS, The United States Congress and numerous state legislatures are presently considering measures, commonly known as shield laws, that would clearly establish by statute the privilege of confidentiality,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the American Library Association strongly supports the enactment by Congress of a broad and effective federal shield law,

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Association exhorts its chapters to work vigorously for the enactment of similarly broad and effective shield laws in every state.

Approved by the Council  
American Library Association

February 2, 1973

Transmitted by Robert Wedgeworth

*Robert Wedgeworth*  
Secretary to the Council