

WASHINGTON OFFICE

AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

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RESOLUTION ON THE REAUTHORIZATION AND REAPPROPRIATION OF THE NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS AND THE NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES

WHEREAS, The American Library Association policy against government intimidation (53.4) states, "the American Library Association opposes any use of government prerogatives which leads to the intimidation of the individual or the citizenry from the exercise of free expression"; and

WHEREAS, Current ALA Federal Legislative Policy encourages support of the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) and the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH); and

WHEREAS, There is a strong indication that the continued politicization of the Endowments' reauthorization and reappropriation process has caused a sense of uncertainty amongst grant applicants and recipients and even polarization between supporters and detractors of the Endowments; and

WHEREAS, The continuance of Federal grants unencumbered by political interference is of great and crucial significance to the Library community; and

WHEREAS, There is now an attempt to encourage the Congress to change the ratio of NEA grants to the States Arts Agencies which could seriously cripple the NEA's peer-grant process; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the American Library Association strongly urges the members of the United States Congress to resist any limitations or reductions of the appropriations for the NEA, the NEH or the Institute of Museum Services on the basis of partisan or doctrinal disapproval of projects funded by the Endowments; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That ALA urges that the Endowments enabling legislation, the National Foundation on the Arts and the Humanities Act, be reauthorized for a full five years without restrictions and without changes in the ratio of funds turned over to the States Arts Agencies; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That ALA urges the Chairpersons of the NEA and of the NEH and all of the grants officers of both Endowments to resist strongly any partisan or doctrinal influence over the grants-making process; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be forwarded to the Congressional Arts Caucus, Congressional Authorization and Appropriations Committees, the Office of Management and Budget, the Chairpersons of NEA and NEH, and any other appropriate bodies.

Adopted by the Council of the
American Library Association
Chicago, Illinois
June 24, 1990
(Council Document #86)