

WASHINGTON LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

RESOLUTION DEFENDING PRIVACY AND CONFIDENTIALITY AS ESSENTIAL COMPONENTS OF INTELLECTUAL FREEDOM

WHEREAS: Benjamin Franklin counseled this nation: “They that can give up essential liberty to obtain a little temporary safety deserve neither liberty nor safety”; and

WHEREAS: The Washington Library Association has endorsed the American Library Association’s Freedom to Read Statement and Library Bill of Rights (Intellectual Freedom Statement, adopted April 6, 2001); and

WHEREAS: The Washington Library Association recognizes privacy and confidentiality as essential components of intellectual freedom (Intellectual Freedom Statement, adopted April 6, 2001); and

WHEREAS: The USA PATRIOT Act (Public Law No: 107-56) contains provisions that threaten these components of intellectual freedom by demanding that libraries and bookstores produce evidence for foreign intelligence investigations in ways that violate Constitutional protections of civil rights and confidentiality of patron records; and

WHEREAS: The “Freedom to Read Protection Act”, H.R. 1157, has been introduced into Congress, co-sponsored by Representatives Baird, Larsen and McDermott of Washington, to eliminate the pernicious effect of those provisions on libraries and bookstores (ALA Washington Office News, March 7, 2003); now, THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED: that the Washington Library Association:

Calls upon the Federal Government to protect the privacy and confidentiality of the people’s lawful use of the library, its equipment, and its resources and

Calls upon Washington’s congressional delegation to support the passage of the Freedom to Read Protection Act;

and, BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED: that this resolution be forwarded to the President of the United States, to the Washington State delegations to both Houses of Congress, and to the press.

Adopted by Executive Board, Washington Library Association, June 6, 2003.