

North Suburban Library System

MEMORANDUM

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Sarah Long

DATE: 15 September 2003

RE: Discussion and approval of resolution on the USA Patriot Act

Attached please find a draft resolution modeled on resolutions passed by the ALA Council at Midwinter and the ILA Board in April. In our leadership role, I think it is important that we take a stand on the USA PATRIOT Act and notify officials as well as our community. Federal legislation is pending that might mitigate some of the worst aspects of this act for libraries. It is important that our voice is heard and that we encourage other to speak out as well.

RESOLUTION ON THE USA PATRIOT ACT AND RELATED MEASURES THAT INFRINGE ON THE RIGHTS OF LIBRARY USERS

RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the North Suburban Library System 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, be it further

RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the North Suburban Library System encourages all librarians, library administrators, library governing bodies, and library advocates to educate their users, staff, and communities about the process for compliance with the USA PATRIOT Act and other related measures and about the dangers to individual privacy and the confidentiality of library records resulting from those measures; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the North Suburban Library System urges member librarians to defend and support user privacy and free and open access to knowledge and information; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the North Suburban Library System supports the American Library Association "Resolution on the USA PATRIOT Act and Related Measures" adopted at the Associations' Midwinter Meeting in January, 2003 and the Illinois Library Association "Resolution on the USA PATRIOT Act and Related Measures that Infringe on the Rights of Library Users" adopted by the ILA Executive Board, April 21, 2003, and will work with the American Library Association and the Illinois Library Association and other organizations, as appropriate, to protect the rights of inquiry and free expression; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the North Suburban Library System supports the efforts of the American Library Association and the Illinois Library Association to obtain and publicize information about the surveillance of libraries and library users by law enforcement agencies and to assess the impact on library users and their communities; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the North Suburban Library System will affirm and uphold efforts of all libraries to adopt and implement patron privacy and record retention policies that affirm that "the collection of personally identifiable information should only be a matter of routine or policy when necessary for the fulfillment of the mission of the library" (ALA Privacy: An Interpretation of the Library Bill of Rights); and, be it further

RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the North Suburban Library System considers sections of the USA PATRIOT Act to be a present danger to the constitutional rights and privacy rights of library users and urges the United States Congress to:

1. provide active oversight of the implementation of the USA PATRIOT Act and other related measures, and the revised Attorney General Guidelines to the Federal Bureau of Investigation;
2. hold hearings to determine the extent of the surveillance on library users and their communities; and
3. amend or change the sections of these laws and the guidelines that threaten or abridge the rights of inquiry and free expression; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be forwarded to members of the Illinois Congressional delegation and to the North Suburban Library community, and to others as appropriate.