

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF IMMIGRANTS' RIGHTS TO FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY ACCESS

WHEREAS, The American Library Association is on record as opposing the REAL I.D. Act; and

WHEREAS, this act will provide an individual with a standardized, state-issued I.D., creating in effect a de facto national "identity card" ; and

WHEREAS, this card requires secure, machine readable identity information to be included on every state issued drivers' license or personal identification card, linking personal information such as social security numbers; and

WHEREAS, the requirement of a state-issued driver's license or personal identification card denies many immigrants including children and young adult members of the family, free public access to books and reading materials necessary for their education and self-development; and

WHEREAS, every state will be forced to comply with the uniform standards set by the REAL I.D. Act by 2008 at the states' expense, forcing states to incur the costs, thus taking needed public dollars normally allocated for libraries and other public services; and

WHEREAS, the use of this form of identification denies basic, fundamental, human rights to immigrants, in violation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights Established under the vision and leadership of Eleanor Roosevelt; and

WHEREAS, the use of the REAL I.D. violates the International Bill of Rights treaties including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) as well as the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), two treaties commonly referred to as the " International Bill of Rights"; and

WHEREAS, ALA Policy manual 60.1.8 reads: Promoting increased public awareness of the importance of library resources and services in all segments of society, especially in minority communities; and therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the American Library Association affirms the right of individuals, regardless of their legal status, to library services; and therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the American Library Association work with affiliates to inform and educate public libraries and member constituents on ways a patron can demonstrate library eligibility and continue to protect patron privacy by encouraging the use of free public library services for all immigrant populations.

Mover: Salvador Avila, Councilor-at-Large -- Renaissance

Seconder: José Aguiñaga, Councilor-at-Large – Renaissance jaguinag@csulb.edu

Endorsed in principle by:

REFORMA Executive Board

PLA Executive Board

Related ALA Policies:

50.3 Free Access to Information

53.8 Libraries: An American Value

58.3 Abridgment of the Rights of Freedom of Foreign Nationals

58.4 Article 19 of the United Nations' Universal Declaration of Human Rights

6/29/2005