

Resolution Condemning the use of National Security Letters

Whereas, the Kansas Library Association supports the United States Constitution and the Bill of Rights, and

Whereas, the Kansas Library Association recognizes the rights of all citizens to be free from unwarranted and unjustified government surveillance, and

Whereas, the Kansas Library Association has grave concerns about abuse of National Security Letters as provided in the USA PATRIOT Act to obtain confidential library records, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Kansas Library Association supports the resolution passed by the American Library Association at the Annual Meeting, June 25-27, 2007 in Washington, DC, which states that:

“Resolved, that the ALA condemn the use of National Security Letters to obtain library records and, be it further Resolved, that the ALA urge Congress to pursue legislative reforms in order to provide adequate protection for each library user’s Constitutional right to be free from unwarranted and unjustified government surveillance, including judicial oversight of National Security Letters (NSLs) requiring a showing of individualized suspicion and demonstrating a factual connection between the individual whose records are sought by the FBI and an actual investigation; elimination of the automatic and permanent imposition of a nondisclosure or “gag” order whenever an NSL is served on an individual or institution; allowing recipients of NSLs to receive meaningful judicial review of a challenge to their NSL without deferring to the government’s claims; increased oversight by Congress and the Office of the Inspector General of the U.S. Department of Justice over NSLs and FBI activities that implicate the First Amendment; and providing for the management, handling, dissemination and destruction of personally identifiable information obtained through NSLs; and, be it further

Resolved, that the ALA Communicate this resolution to the Office of the President and office of the Vice President, Congress, ALA members, and state chapters; and that ALA urge its members, state chapters, and all library advocates to ask Congress to restore civil liberties and correct the abuse and misuse of National Security Letters,” and be it further

RESOLVED, that this resolution is communicated to the American Library Association, and all elected members representing the State of Kansas in the United States Senate and United States House of Representatives.