

Report of the Mountain Plains Library Association Intellectual Freedom Committee
October 2004

In answering the charge from the MPLA Executive Board from the January 12, 2003 meeting, the Intellectual Freedom Committee has put together a proposal for a USA Patriot Act Resolution. We are proposing three options (see attachment). The options are: Adopting the ALA resolution, adapting (as opposed to adopting) the Michigan Resolution, or adapting the California resolution.

Even though an adoption is well behind the curve at this point it was felt by the group that a) we still have an obligation to take a stance; b) the renewal of the USA Patriot Act and c) the possibility of the Patriot Act II.

The reasoning behind proposing the Michigan resolution is that we have seen it before and it is seen as a less aggressive choice to the ALA Resolution. The California resolution is an aggressive alternative to the ALA Resolution.

Facts about USA Patriot Act Resolutions:

42 states and Washington D.C. have passed a USA Patriot Act that have presented hard proof. I have written documentation of 41 of the states and verbal confirmation from past officers in two groups (Idaho and Washington D.C.).

6 states have been listed by ALA as having passed a resolution, although I have found several errors in the ALA listings.

2 states (Arizona and Alabama) have not provided any proof of any disposition on a resolution.

Of the 43 associations that have passed a confirmed resolution 31 have adopted the ALA Resolution. 12 have adopted a locally written resolution.

Of the 6 soft confirmations, it is claimed that all 6 adopted the ALA resolution.

MPLA State Statistics:

(8 states) Colorado, Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, and South Dakota have adopted the ALA Resolution.

North Dakota adopted the ALA Resolution and wrote a local resolution.

(2 states) Nevada and Wyoming have passed a local resolution.

Utah has not provided any documentation or verbal claim to back the ALA claim that an adoption of the ALA resolution has been passed as claimed by the ALA website. Arizona has provided no documentation to suggest any action whether positive or negative on a resolution.

It is the recommendation of the Intellectual Freedom Committee that the MPLA Executive Board adopt the ALA resolution.

Respectfully Submitted,

Scott Goldy, Chair, MPLA IF Committee