

**Resolution on Securing Government Accountability through Whistleblower
Protection**

WHEREAS, the American Library Association has a long standing policy of supporting free speech by all, including government employees; and

WHEREAS, open and unfettered access to information by and about government is a basic tenet of a democratic society and crucial to the public's ability to hold government accountable; and

WHEREAS, security concerns in today's environment have resulted in increased restrictions on access to public, unclassified government information, and actions of whistleblowers may be the only means of exposing problems in government; and

WHEREAS, whistleblowers often have alerted Congress, government officials, and the public to abuse, fraud, and waste in governmental activities; and

WHEREAS, libraries and librarians have a long tradition of assisting the public in learning about the activities of their government; and

WHEREAS, government employees who have uncovered abuse, fraud, and waste and become whistleblowers have suffered intimidation, loss of security clearance, reduced benefits, or loss of employment; and

WHEREAS, legislative efforts to strengthen governmental accountability through enhanced protection for whistleblowers, such as the "Paul Revere Whistleblower Act," are pending in Congress; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the American Library Association affirms its support for accountable government and the role of whistleblowers in reporting abuse, fraud, and waste in governmental activities; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the American Library Association supports legislative efforts to provide increased support and protection for whistleblowers in the Federal government.

Initiated by: COL Government Information Subcommittee
Endorsed in Principle by FAFLRT, June 26, 2004; GODORT Legislation Committee, June 27, 2004; GODORT Membership, June 28, 2004; Intellectual Freedom Committee, June 29, 2004
Adopted by COL, Government Information Subcommittee, June 28, 2004
Adopted by Committee on Legislation, June 28, 2004

Policy : #50.2
Prior History: None

