

Action Item

**Lincoln Trail Libraries System
May 29, 2007**

Action Item No.: 2007-23

Subject: Resolution Regarding Illinois House Bill 1727

Recommended by: Staff

Adopted:

Resolution of the Board of Directors of Lincoln Trail Libraries System

Whereas, the members of the Board of Directors of Lincoln Trail Libraries System were elected to provide leadership for academic, public, school, and special library members in the system's service area; and

Whereas, Illinois House Bill 1727 mandates Internet filters on all public and school library computers for all users; and

Whereas, Illinois House Bill 1727 would remove all state funding from libraries unable to certify compliance or refusing to comply; and

Whereas, Illinois House Bill represents an unfunded state mandate, overriding existing local policies and procedures; and

Whereas, Illinois House Bill 1727 would place undue burdens on libraries, particularly libraries with already low levels of funding and financial support, diverting scarce resources to pay for required filters, estimated to cost many libraries as much as \$10,000 for network installations and \$3,000 for annual maintenance fees; and

Whereas, Illinois House Bill 1727 would require libraries to provide any minor seeking unfiltered Internet access for legitimate homework research with an unspecified individual over the age of 21 to serve as a monitor for the duration of the minor's unfiltered Internet access in the library;

Therefore, be it resolved that the Board of Directors of Lincoln Trail Libraries System opposes House Bill 1727 requiring installation of mandatory Internet filters on all public and school library computers.

Be it further resolved that the Board of Directors of Lincoln Trail Libraries System supports the many studies which demonstrate that filters consistently block important information on science, health, political, and social issues and often allow objectionable material to be accessed giving the public false sense of security in their mistaken belief that filters will make searching the Internet safe for children.

Be it further resolved that Lincoln Trail Libraries System, in concert with the greater Illinois library community, supports the goal of protecting children. One of the primary concerns of the library community is the safety of children. The best way to protect children is to teach them to guard their privacy and make wise choices. To this end, the Illinois General Assembly, if seriously interested in protecting children, can best help to foster the goal of

protecting our children by funding an educational campaign now. Education, not laws blocking access, is the key to safe use of the Internet.

Be it further resolved that the Board of Directors of Lincoln Trail Libraries System commends Representatives Black, Dugan, Eddy, and Jakobsson for their courageous stand against this legislation in the Illinois House of Representatives and respectfully requests Senators Righter, Rutherford, Frerichs, Dahl, and Halvorson to also courageously vote “no” on this flawed legislation.

Adopted the 29th day of May 2007 by the Board of Directors of Lincoln Trail Libraries System.

James Quisenberry, President

Laura Barnes, Secretary