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Obscenity: Andres Serrano Controversy (1989): Report 02

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Recommended Citation

Galvin, Thomas J., "Obscenity: Andres Serrano Controversy (1989): Report 02" (1989). *Obscenity: Andres Serrano Controversy (1989)*. Paper 20.
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AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

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RESOLUTION ON INTIMIDATION OF THE NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS (NEA)

- Whereas, The American Library Association policy against government intimidation (53.4) states, "the American Library Association opposes any use of government prerogatives which leads to the intimidation of the individual or the citizenry from the exercise of free expression," and
- Whereas, Current ALA Federal Legislative Policy encourages support of the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), and
- Whereas, Two recent occurrences, the cancellation of the Robert Mapplethorpe exhibition at the Corcoran Gallery in Washington, D.C. and the Congressional reaction to a particular photograph in an exhibition of work by Andres Serrano, both of which were funded in part, at least indirectly, by National Endowment for the Arts grants, indicate a potential politicization of the grants-making process of the Endowment, now, therefore, be it
- Resolved, That the American Library Association urge the United States Congress to resist any limitations or reductions of appropriations for the National Endowment for the Arts on the basis of partisan or doctrinal disapproval of projects funded by the NEA, and, be it further
- Resolved, That ALA urge the Acting Chairperson of the National Endowment for the Arts and all of its grants officers to resist strongly Congressional or Executive influence over the grants-making process, and, be it further
- Resolved, That copies of this resolution be forwarded to the members of the Congressional Arts Caucus, the Budget and Appropriations Committees of both houses of the U.S. Congress, the Office of Management and Budget, the Acting Chairperson of the National Endowment for the Arts and any other appropriate bodies.



ADOPTED BY THE
COUNCIL OF THE AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION
June 28, 1989, in Dallas, Texas
Transmitted by

Thomas J. Galvin, Secretary of Council