

### **Resolution in Defense of the Right to Engage in Political Boycotts**

Whereas the U.S. Supreme Court has determined that political boycotts are protected by the First Amendment;<sup>1</sup>

Whereas a political boycott was instrumental in the founding of the United States of America;

Whereas political boycotts—with some support from the American Library Association (ALA)—were crucial for the successes of such movements as the civil rights movement in the U.S., the international movement against apartheid in South Africa, and the struggle for LGBTQ rights in the United States;<sup>2</sup>

Whereas many states have adopted legislation and many federal bills have been introduced in Congress that would penalize or condone state penalization of individuals, organizations, and companies participating in boycotts of Israel for political change;<sup>3</sup>

Whereas Texas has passed copycat legislation that prohibits governmental entities from contracting with companies that boycott energy

Whereas ALA urges "libraries and librarians everywhere to resist such abuse of governmental power, and to support those against whom such governmental power has been employed;" it "rejects censorship in any form;" and it pledges it "will not abrogate these principles;"<sup>9</sup> now therefore be it

Resolved, that the American Library Association on behalf of its members opposes all legislation that would penalize or condone penalization of individuals, organizations, or libraries (rmt005gtw 10no)12 (t9)2 (rc 0.00A twa)

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<sup>3</sup> As of May 9, 2022, Palestine Legal listed 32 states that have passed "Legislation

