

Association of College & Research Libraries
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July 27, 2010

Chairman Wm. Lacy Clay
Subcommittee on Information Policy, the Census and National Archives
Committee on Oversight and Government Reform
U.S. House of Representatives
2157 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515
Via fax: (202) 225-4784

Dear Chairman Clay,

On behalf of the Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL) and the over 12,000 members we represent, we are writing in appreciation of the recent announcement that you will be holding a hearing on H.R. 5037, the Federal Research Public Access Act (FRPAA), which was introduced into the House on April 15 by Rep. Mike Doyle (R-PA). We are strong supporters of this bill and are grateful you will be exploring the issue of public access to federally funded research in an open hearing on Thursday, July 29.

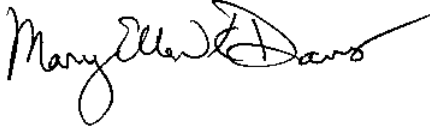
ACRL, a division of the American Library Association (ALA), is the only individual membership organization in North America that develops programs, products, and services to meet the unique needs of academic and research librarians. ACRL endorsed both the House and Senate versions of FRPAA, when they were introduced, as landmark events in the ongoing effort to establish public access to federally funded research. This legislation is an important step toward reforming a system of scholarly communication to be more responsive to the needs of the academy, reflecting the nature of scholarship and research as a public good.

Thank you for being so responsive to the interests of academic libraries and those we serve – faculty, students, and the public – along with the many other stakeholders who have a vested interest in increasing access to knowledge. We believe an open hearing is an important step toward giving this bill full consideration. The bill balances the needs of all stakeholders in the research community and helps to create a level playing field where all interested citizens can access the results of publicly funded research equally.

We are pleased that this open hearing will provide an opportunity for all stakeholders to express their views. We expect the Committee will hear a broad range of perspectives on

the potential impact of opening up access to the results of the United States' more than \$60 billion annual investment in scientific research. Thank you again.

Sincerely,



Mary Ellen K. Davis
ACRL Executive Director
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Lisa Janicke Hinchliffe
ACRL President
Associate Professor
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
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cc: Krista Boyd, Counsel, Committee on Oversight and Government Reform
(Krista.Boyd@mail.house.gov)

Anthony Clark, Professional Staff Member, Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, Subcommittee on Subcommittee on Information Policy, the Census and National Archives (Anthony.Clark@mail.house.gov)

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Ranking Member Patrick McHenry
Subcommittee on Information Policy, the Census and National Archives
Committee on Oversight and Government Reform
U.S. House of Representatives
2157 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515
Via fax: (202) 225-4784

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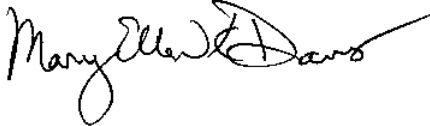
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cc: Krista Boyd, Counsel, Committee on Oversight and Government Reform
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