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## Literacy Education for All, Results for the Nation Act

### National Library Legislative Day

May 2013

As currently drafted, the LEARN Act, S. 758, is intended to improve student academic achievement in reading and writing by providing federal support to state education agencies (SEAs) to develop, coordinate, and implement comprehensive literacy plans that ensure high-quality instruction and effective strategies in reading and writing from early education through grade 12. But, the bill does not adequately include school libraries which are critical parts of the literacy teaching resources in K-12 schools.

ALA asks that provisions be added to the LEARN Act to ensure that library programs and activities are adequately included as part of an overall strategy to improve literacy by:

- Adding a new definition for “effective school library program” that at a minimum would include:
  1. A school library that is staffed by state certified school librarian;
  2. A school library that has up-to-date books, materials, equipment, and technology (including broadband); and
  3. Regular collaboration between classroom teachers and school librarians to assist with development and implementation of the curriculum and other school reform efforts.
- Ensuring that librarians are included in support for professional development.
- Including a review of school library programs in the local ‘Capacity Survey’ in schools that are targeted to receive grant funds to determine if they are “effective” and requiring grantees to use a portion of their funds on authorized activities for schools that do not have an effective school library program.
- Expanding uses of funds for K-12 activities (if applicable) for developing and/or maintaining “effective school library programs” that at a minimum would include:
  1. Recruiting and hiring state certified school librarians;
  2. Professional development;
  3. Acquisition of materials, equipment, and technology; and
  4. Activities to facilitate regular collaboration between classroom teachers and school librarians to assist with development and implementation of the curriculum and other school reform efforts.