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Workforce Investment Act (WIA)

National Library Legislative Day

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ALA's Position: The American Library Association asks the U.S. Senate to move forward on reauthorizing the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) and:

- **Authorize public libraries that carry out employment, training, and literacy services as additional one-stop partners; and,**
- **Require inclusion of public libraries in state plans as well as descriptions of the actions that will be taken by the state to foster communication, coordination, and partnerships with non-profit organizations; and,**
- **Require inclusion of public libraries in local state plans as well as descriptions of the strategies and services that will be used in the local area to better coordinate workforce development programs with employment, training, and literacy services carried out by non-profit organizations.**

Background:

WIA reauthorization has seen significant movement already in this 113th Congress. On March 15, the House of Representatives passed—on a 215-202 vote—H.R. 803 with provisions very favorable to libraries. H.R. 803 ensures that state and local plans include the coordination of activities with public libraries and authorizes public libraries that carry out employment, training, and literacy services as additional one-stop partners.

The next move for WIA will be in the Senate. ALA is now encouraging the Senate to address WIA reauthorization and include public libraries in this important legislation.