FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 2, 2016

(STATE) librarian advocates for library funding, other public interest priorities at National Library Legislative Day

(INSERT CITY AND STATE) – (INSERT YOUR NAME), a librarian [or insert other title] from (INSERT LIBRARY NAME) in (INSERT CITY AND STATE), met with members of Congress from May 2–3, 2016, to discuss key library issues during the American Library Association’s 42nd annual National Library Legislative Day in Washington, D.C. (INSERT LAST NAME) joined several hundred other librarians and library supporters in the capital to support federal funding for our nation’s libraries and other legislative priorities.

Former Representative Rush Holt (D-NJ) opened the event by discussing the importance of library advocacy during an election year. Underscoring how much libraries support learning of all kinds in the nation’s schools, Rep. Holt encouraged advocates to remind their congressional leaders to think of libraries as trusted institutions at the core of their communities that positively transform lives.

Jenny Backus, president and CEO of Backus Consulting and former senior policy advisor for Google, Inc., followed Holt. Backus spoke to and guided a discussion of effective advocacy strategies for library leaders. The event also featured a panel discussion on effective media outreach strategies with: Jason Huffman, Agriculture and Trade editor for PoliticoPro; Darshana Patel, communications consultant for Latitude Worldwide; and Nancy Gravatt, marketing and communications officer, Fairfax County Public Library.

National Library Legislative Day advocates asked their Members of Congress in the House and Senate to increase funding for library services, approve a new Treaty to provide electronic materials to the blind worldwide, protect the privacy of email and other electronic communications, and to support legislation that will afford the public broad and free access to government information. Library supporters who could not attend the Washington meetings connected virtually with legislators via phone calls, emails and social media platforms as part of Virtual Library Legislative Day.

Photos from legislative meetings held are available. Learn more about National Library Legislative Day.

About the American Library Association

The American Library Association is the oldest and largest library association in the world, with more than 58,000 members in academic, public, school, government, and special libraries. The mission of the American Library Association is to provide leadership for the development, promotion and improvement of library and information services and the profession of librarianship in order to enhance learning and ensure access to information for all.