Key Issues for Libraries

National Library Legislative Day
May 5–6, 2014

APPROPRIATIONS:
The American Library Association (ALA) asks Congress to:
• Fund the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) at $180.9 million for FY 2015;
• Fund Innovative Approaches to Literacy (IAL) program at $25 million for FY 2015;
• Fund the Library of Congress at $593.1 million;
• Fund the Government Printing Office (GPO) at $128.9 million.

EARLY LEARNING:
• ALA asks the President and Congress to recognize our contributions to the development of early learning initiatives by specifically including libraries as eligible entities and/or allowable partners as part of any federal early childhood education programs or initiatives.

E-RATE:
• Libraries complete education, jumpstart employment, and empower people in communities across the country. The E-rate program is essential and ensures libraries have the high-capacity broadband they need to provide these critical community services.
• ALA thanks Congress for its continued support of the E-rate program and asks that it support the reforms that bring high-capacity broadband to all libraries.
• Without E-rate, libraries will not be able to meet the needs of their communities. We must not allow inadequate broadband limit the services libraries can provide.

NETWORK NEUTRALITY:
• Preserving an open Internet is essential to our nation's freedom of speech, educational achievement, and economic growth.
• ALA asks Congress to support this principle and assure that the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) can use its authority to protect equitable access to online resources and allow the ability of all Internet users to create and disseminate their own content and applications without paying a toll to do so.

OPEN ACCESS:
• ALA asks Members of Congress to co-sponsor the Fair Access to Science and Technology Research Act of 2013 (FASTR) (S. 350/H.R. 708) to demonstrate support for open access to taxpayer-funded research.
PRIVACY & SURVEILLANCE:
• ALA asks Congress to pass the *Email Privacy Act/Electronic Communications Privacy Act*, bipartisan legislation (H.R. 1852/S.607) to reform ECPA to establish search warrant requirements for the government to obtain the content of Americans’ emails when those communications are stored with a third-party service provider for more than 180 days.
• ALA asks Members of Congress to co-sponsor the *USA FREEDOM Act* (H.R. 3361/S.1599). These bills represent a bipartisan, bicameral effort to reform the government’s surveillance authorities including ending the bulk collection of Americans’ records shared with third parties and put reasonable limits on Patriot Act powers targeted at people in the United States.

SCHOOL LIBRARIES:
• ALA asks Congress to include effective school library programs in reauthorization of the *Elementary and Secondary Education Act* (ESEA);
• Students perform better in schools that have a quality school library with a state-certified school librarian.

WORKFORCE INVESTMENT:
• ALA asks the Congress to authorize public libraries that carry out employment, training, and literacy services as additional one-stop partners; and,
• Require inclusion of public libraries in state and local plans as well as descriptions of the actions that will be taken by the state and local Boards to foster communication, coordination, and partnerships with non-profit organizations around workforce development programs with employment, training, and literacy services carried out by non-profit organizations.

DECLARE SUPPORT FOR LIBRARIES:
• Libraries are essential to a democratic society. In affirming support for libraries, members of Congress can demonstrate to the millions of children, students and adults across the country who use libraries to learn, grow, find jobs, develop skills and achieve their dreams, that our elected officials have a deep understanding of what libraries do for individuals, for communities and for the entire country.
• Congress can assure the public’s right to know, promote literacy and lifelong learning – and support the truly essential role of libraries in communities and learning institutions across the country by supporting key federal library legislation, funding and policy issues