OBJECTIVE: Increase or maintain current levels of federal funding for a wide range of job training, citizenship, business support, literacy, veterans assistance, technology access and training and other vital programs and services provided to millions of library patrons in virtually every U.S. city, school and community.

PERSPECTIVE: Libraries provide a range of services critical to individual, community and national success often unavailable in other venues or at home. America’s public libraries alone log 4 million visitors every day. The range of tools and services provided at libraries include: educational research, degree attainment, employment training, job skills development, career certification, citizenship training, resume building, government document access, teleconferencing and even 3D printing.

Libraries also provide a safe, neutral and central community gathering place. Federal investments in libraries are investments in America’s communities. Cuts in federal funding for library programs produce a doubly adverse effect. Because many states match federal funding, state library support also is reduced if federal funding is cut. As the nation’s economy recovers, these lost revenues will limit the ability of many to seek new careers or education and to access other critical resources.

PRIORITIES: ALA urges Members of the 115th Congress to . . .

♦ **REAUTHORIZE** and fund the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) at $186.6 million for FY 2018. LSTA is the primary source of federal support for libraries. Funds flow through the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) directly to states per a population-based formula with a state match. States determine for themselves the best use of funds, which support such services as database access, computer instruction, summer reading, collection digitization, access to e-books and adaptive technology, and bookmobiles among many others;

♦ **MAINTAIN** level funding for the Innovative Approaches to Literacy (IAL) program at $27 million for FY 2018. IAL is the primary source of funding for school literacy programs. Funding allows school libraries to modernize, purchase up-to-date books, promote family engagement in early literacy, and provide e-books and other adaptive technology for millions of the nation's financially neediest students and under-served communities across the nation; and

♦ **OPPOSE** the President’s FY2018 budget proposals to eliminate the Institute of Museum and Library Services, LSTA, IAL, Title IV Part A, and other vital library programs. If implemented, the proposed cuts would decimate or preclude programs that support, among many other things: student literacy, job training, business expansion, entrepreneurship, veterans’ assistance, high-speed internet access and millions of Americans in communities everywhere.