

To: ALA Council

Re: Report

Action Requested by:

Contact Person:

Ed Garcia

COL Chair

Staff Liaison Contact:

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Date: January 6, 2023

Background: COL Report to Council

**Report to Council
2023 LLX Meeting
Ed Garcia, Chair - ALA Committee on Legislation (COL)
January 29, 2023**

COL Committee Members:

Ed Garcia (Chair), Tania Baryn, Brooke Corso, Deborah Doyle, Jessica Sheara Epstein, Lori Fisher, Susan Hempstead, Dr. Maria McCauley, James G. Neal, Kent Oliver, Nicole Robinson, Jana Stevenson, Joseph Thompson, Julia Warga, Lisa L. Wells, Sara Dallas (Executive Board Liaison)

COL Charge

The ALA Council Committee on Legislation (COL) is charged with the responsibility for the association's legislative agenda. Specifically, to:

- Identify, for the Public Policy & Advocacy Office, the association's strategic priorities.
- Recommend, annually, based on consultation with the Public Policy & Advocacy Office, a legislative and public policy agenda.
- Review and advise on any policy statements and/or resolutions that have an impact on federal legislation, policy, or regulations.
- Provide a forum within ALA to share information and legislative analysis of current and impending federal laws and regulations to keep ALA units apprised of current issues affecting libraries.
- Be available to consult, collaborate and offer assistance to state and local library entities when federal legislation has implications at the state and local level.

COL Legislative Agenda

At the Fall COL retreat in mid-November COL discussed and approved the Federal Legislative and Public Policy Agenda for 2023 (attached to this report). The agenda is focused on four key areas: Funding; Digital Inclusion and Skills; Copyright, Licensing and Competition; and Government Information and Services.

COMMITTEE UPDATES

Council Actions

At the 2022 Annual Conference, ALA Council passed the “Resolution Calling for Student Loan Cancellation”. The resolved clause called on President Biden to cancel student loan debt for all borrowers. In August 2022, the PPA office transmitted a letter to President Biden calling on him to take this action. <http://hdl.handle.net/11213/19277>

ALA Connect Live

COL Chair Ed Garcia and Interim Associate Director of the PPA office Alan Inouye were speakers on the December 15, 2022, edition of ALA Connect Live to discuss the legislative outlook in the new Congress.

Congratulations!

Congratulations to COL committee member Lori Fisher on her appointment as the new Maine State Librarian effective January 2023. Also, congratulations to COL committee member James G. Neal along with past ALA President Julius C. Jefferson Jr. for their appointments to the IMLS National Museum and Library Services Board.

Committee Appointments and Liaisons

Susan Hempstead was appointed a new member of the committee to replace Sara Dallas upon her election to the Executive Board. Sara continues as the committee’s Executive Board liaison. Susan had been a committee associate. Jana Stevenson was also appointed to the committee to replace LaMoya Burks as LaMoya joined ALA staff. Susan Hempstead was also appointed as the COL member to the Sustainability Committee. Julia Warga was appointed as the COL liaison to the IFC Privacy subcommittee. COL Chair Garcia and PLA President & COL committee member Dr. Maria McCauley created a liaison between COL and the PLA Advocacy and Strategic Partnerships Committee. Former COL Chair Joe Thompson agreed to fill this role between the two committees.

PPA welcomes new COL members in virtual orientation

In September, PPA staff provided new COL members with an in-depth orientation on federal policy issues, PPA staffing and PPA resources available to members. For new members, the event was their first time meeting (virtually) PPA staff, learn about their role as a COL member, and receive updates on the many policy issues that COL members will encounter.

COL fall retreat returns to in-person format

The Committee on Legislation held its annual two-day Fall Retreat, the first in-person retreat since 2019. The retreat provided COL members an opportunity to hear from outside ALA speakers and PPA staff on a wide range of important policy activities, as well as providing opportunities for members to socialize. ALA President Lessa Pelayo-Lozada attended a portion of the retreat to welcome members and thank them for their service.

Outside speakers included John Windhausen (leading a discussion on telecom and broadband), Elyse Wasch (recap and implications of recent federal elections), Senator Jack Reed staffer Moira Lenehan (Right to Read Act), and Jonathan Band (Copyright and eBooks). Members also received PPA updates on office changes, communication, messaging and grassroots tools, outreach to newly elected members of Congress, and an update from Committee on Library Advocacy (COLA) Steven Yates.

COL members continued discussion of the 2023 COL Federal Legislative and Public Policy Agenda and provided final approval.

FEDERAL LEGISLATION AND POLICY UPDATES

The Committee on Legislation continues to work closely with the Public Policy and Advocacy team to advance ALA's public policy priorities on Capitol Hill. Recent highlights include:

FUNDING & SUPPORT

Success for Library Funding in FY 2023 Appropriations

The Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 Congressional appropriations cycle concluded hours before expiration of the December 24 continuing resolution with a 4,100-page FY 2023 Omnibus Spending Bill, which included welcome increases in library funding.

[ALA applauded](#) substantial increase for important library programs. The leading source of federal funding for America's libraries, the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA), administered by the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), saw an increase of \$13.5 million, raising the program to \$211 million. In addition, the Innovative Approaches to Literacy (IAL) program, designed to support school library literacy initiatives nationwide, saw a \$1 million increase. This increase brought total funding to \$30 million for the Department of Education program.

The Omnibus Appropriations bill provides increases for several programs benefitting libraries:

Direct Library Funding:

- IMLS +\$26.8 million
- LSTA +\$13.5 million
- LSTA Grant to States +\$11.2 million
- LSTA Native American and Native Hawaiian Library Services +\$0.5 million
- Innovative Approaches to Literacy +\$1 million

Library-Eligible Funding (examples):

- Education Title IV +\$100 million
- Education Title II for professional development +\$20 million
- Comprehensive Literacy State Grants +\$2 million
- National Library of Medicine +\$18 million
- Library of Congress +\$30 million
- National Endowment for the Arts +\$23.6 million
- National Endowment for the Humanities +\$20.7 million

FY 2023 appropriations law voices support for library facilities

For fiscal year 2023, ALA included a new funding request for Congress to allocate at least \$20 million for a new national program for improving library facilities, inspired by the Build America's Libraries Act (S. 127/H.R. 1581). On June 30, the House Appropriations committee approved its FY23 bills, which did not include the requested funding, but included language expressing concern about the condition of library facilities and supporting efforts to assess the condition of library facilities. On July 28, the Senate Appropriations Committee [released draft FY23 bills](#) that did include the requested funding for library facilities. On October 27, more than 50 Representatives [signed a letter](#), which was supported by ALA, urging the House to agree to the Senate's funding for library facilities. On December 23, [Congress](#) passed, and on December 29 President Biden signed, the final FY23 appropriations law, which did not include the requested funding for library facilities, but did include the language supporting efforts to assess the condition of library facilities.

School Librarians Supported in Right to Read Act

Legislation supporting the work of school librarians was the objective of Senator Jack Reed (D-RI) and Representative Raúl Grijalva (D-AZ-03) who in October introduced the Right to Read Act ([S. 5064](#) and [H.R. 9056](#)). The Right to Read Act is designed to ensure all students, including low-income and minority students, children with disabilities, and English language learners, have access to an effective

school library staffed by a certified school librarian. The act would increase student access to both fully staffed and appropriately resourced school libraries and authorization for funding to meet these needs. The legislation also supports recruitment, retention, and professional development for state-certified school librarians. [Senator Reed's press release](#) announcing the bill's introduction included a quote from ALA President Lessa Pelayo-Lozada.

Senator Reed and Rep. Grijalva's legislation also reaffirms that First Amendment rights apply to school libraries, in response to the growing trend of book bans, which limit appropriate educational options for students. In addition, the Right to Read Act would extend liability protections to teachers and school librarians.

ALA launched a "thank you" campaign urging school librarian champions to sign a virtual thank you card to Senator Reed and Representative Grijalva. More than 3,000 advocates signed onto the thank you. PPA staff arranged for a group of DC area school librarians to deliver the signatures in person to the staffs of Senator Reed & Representative Grijalva.

In December, a local thank you was delivered by COL Chair Ed Garcia and a group of Rhode Island school librarians who met with [Senator Reed](#) to deliver their thanks. A similar meeting was held with Arizona school librarians and Representative Grijalva.

Adult Education WORKS Act leverages public libraries for workforce development

The bipartisan Adult Education Workforce Opportunity and Reskilling for Knowledge and Success Act (Adult Education WORKS Act), introduced by Senators Jack Reed (D-RI) and Todd Young (R-IN) in December 2022, will address workforce challenges by updating the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) to strengthen and expand access to adult education services. The legislation would increase funding for adult education and strengthen coordination across adult education and workforce programs. Highlights of S. 5202 include expanding the role of public libraries in the one-stop delivery system for workforce development; ensuring that adult education providers are represented on workforce boards; authorizing a doubling of adult education funding by 2026; and incorporating digital and information literacy into adult education and workforce development programs. Among other provisions, the bill would also provide support for college and career navigators at public libraries and community-based organizations.

ALA has worked with Senate offices to ensure that Adult Education WORKS Act will leverage the [reach, expertise and resources](#) of America's public libraries to boost college, career readiness, and expand economic opportunity and mobility for millions of people. A [press release](#) from Senator Jack Reed highlighted a supporting quote from ALA President Lessa Pelayo-Lozada.

Summer Meals and Learning Act of 2022

In July, Senator Jeff Merkley (D-OR) introduced [S.4578](#) and Representative Joe Morelle (D-NY) and Rep. Katko (R-NY) introduced [H.R. 8429](#) which were endorsed by ALA. These bills would authorize operating grants to school libraries, which have early reading programs and summer lunch programs.

ALA advocates for resources to promote library sustainability

PPA has continued to advocate for federal resources to improve the sustainability of library facilities. On June 2, ALA joined a [coalition letter](#) to Congressional leaders in support of legislative proposals to improve the energy efficiency of buildings. On December 22, ALA submitted comments to the Energy Department regarding energy efficiency funding for nonprofit buildings.

ALA welcomes reinstated President's Committee on the Arts and Humanities

ALA [welcomed](#) President Biden's [Executive Order](#) on Promoting the Arts, the Humanities, and Museum and Library Services, announced on October 1. The Executive Order establishes the President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities within the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) to "inform and support the national engagement with Americans necessary to advance the arts, the humanities and museum and library services." The Committee will work directly with the Biden

Administration and three cultural agencies: IMLS, the National Endowment for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Humanities as well as with other federal entities. The order reinstates the committee, which had previously existed prior to 2017.

DIGITAL INCLUSION & SKILLS

ALA promotes FCC grants for library outreach on affordable connectivity program

Following the FCC's notice of funding opportunities in November, PPA wrote a [blog post](#) for PLA and fact sheet with information for libraries about applying for the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) Outreach Grants. To promote the funding opportunity, PPA hosted an [Instagram Live Q&A](#) about the ACP, with President Lessa Pelayo-Lozada moderating the discussion. Guest speakers - Liz Gabbitas, Digital Access and Education Program Manager at the Utah State Library, and Evan Marwell, CEO of Education Superhighway - provided insights for libraries as they consider applying for ACP Outreach grant funds. The event has had nearly 1,000 views.

ALA supports the Digital Equity Foundation Act

ALA endorsed the Digital Equity Foundation Act, legislation introduced by Senator Ben Ray Luján (D-N.M.) and Representative Doris Matsui (D-CA-7), to establish a nonprofit foundation that would leverage public and private investments to advance digital equity. A [press release](#) issued by the cosponsors quoted ALA President Lessa Pelayo-Lozada: "The Digital Equity Foundation Act of 2022 introduced by Senator Lujan and Representative Matsui would invest in often overlooked parts of the digital divide: the internet user and the trusted institutions that connect and empower users to fully participate online. Ongoing funding for digital literacy and inclusion must accompany basic access to the internet. The American Library Association is proud to support legislation that would allow libraries to do on a larger scale what they have always done: provide people access to the opportunities that the internet promises."

ALA releases digital equity report

ALA's new digital equity report, [released](#) in October, outlines how policymakers can scale library successes to advance digital equity. Authored by policy fellow Michelle Frisque, [Leveraging Libraries to Advance Digital Equity](#), the report included examples and lessons learned from conversations at ALA's June 2022 Broadband Convening, supported by the Mellon Foundation. The report was highlighted in [GovTech magazine](#) as well as in Benton Institute for Broadband and Society headlines and [blog](#). Megan Janicki spoke about the report at the November Chapter Advocacy Exchange.

ALA endorses Tribal Connect Act

In October [Senators Heinrich, Luján and Hoeven](#) introduced the Tribal Connect Act of 2022 to make it easier for Tribes to secure high-speed internet access at tribally owned public institutions through the FCC's Universal Service Fund (USF) Schools and Libraries Program (E-rate). Companion legislation was introduced in the [House](#) in November by Representative Teresa Leger Fernández. Among other things, the Tribal Connect Act builds on ALA's work to update the FCC's definition of "library" (which went into effect in January 2022), providing clarity regarding the eligibility of Tribal libraries and promoting increased participation of underrepresented Tribal libraries in the E-Rate Program.

COPYRIGHT, LICENSING & COMPETITION

ALA continues work with library and publishing ecosystem

Engagement in digital books advocacy continues as several states are gearing up to introduce legislation in 2023. ALA prepared a report for library advocates interested in state legislation, which may be requested from PPA directly (it is not publicly posted anywhere). ALA staff also discussed directions and prospects for digital book advocacy at a DPLA webinar and ALA Chapter Exchange webinar. An ALA delegation met with representatives from a number of organizations in the publishing

ecosystem in New York City this fall, reaffirming relationships. For many, this was the first in-person interaction in several years because of the pandemic.

GOVERNMENT INFORMATION & SERVICES

ALA Endorses nomination of Dr. Colleen Shogan for Archivist of the United States

In September 2022, on behalf of the Executive Board, the PPA office to Senator Gary Peters, Chairman of the Committee on Homeland Security & Governmental Affairs and Senator Rob Portman, Ranking member of the committee to [endorse the nomination](#) of Dr. Colleen Shogan for Archivist of the United States.

ALA-supported Access to Congressionally Mandated Reports Act becomes law

On December 23, President Biden signed into law the Access to Congressionally Mandated Reports Act, which was incorporated as a provision of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023 (H.R. 7776). ALA had supported the Access to Congressionally Mandated Reports Act over several years (for instance, [in this November 2021 letter](#)). The law requires the Government Publishing Office (GPO) to create an online database with free public access to reports that agencies are required to submit to Congress and requires agencies to provide copies of those reports to GPO for that purpose.

ADVOCACY & OUTREACH

ALA organizes awareness event with the White House

On August 4, 2022, ALA held a media publicity event to recognize librarians' efforts in providing information regarding COVID-19 vaccines. The event was organized as part of [PPA's partnership](#) with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' "[We Can Do This](#)" campaign to share trusted information about COVID-19 vaccines with parents and families with children. The event was organized in coordination with the Prince George's County (MD) Memorial Library System, which hosted a pediatric vaccination clinic and media event with Cameron Webb, MD, Senior Advisor to the White House COVID-19 Response. Dr. Maria McCauley, President of the Public Library Association and Library Director of the Cambridge (MA) Public Library, and Nick Brown, Acting Co-CEO, Prince George's County Memorial Library System, also made remarks about the importance of libraries in the nation's community-driven public health approach to fighting COVID. The event took place at the Hyattsville Branch Library, weeks after the U.S. Food and Drug Administration authorized a COVID vaccine for children six months through 5 years of age. The event was centered on a theme of health equity and diverse family audience accessibility, with Spanish language and American Sign Language translation throughout the story time and media conference immediately following. A dance party for children featured Latin style dance and Spanish-language sing-along. The event resulted in media coverage in several news outlets, including [The Washington Post](#), [NBC4 Washington](#), [Univision](#), and [El Tiempo Latino](#).

ALA promotes civic engagement pre-midterm elections and proactive advocacy after voting

Prior to the 2022 midterm elections, PPA published an updated [voter engagement guide](#) and again participated as a premier partner of [National Voter Registration Day](#) along with hundreds of libraries signing up to observe this civic holiday introduced by Nonprofit VOTE. PPA also promoted resources and events of allied civic organizations including Tuft University CIRCLE's Growing Voters report, National Vote Early Day and Vote Riders voter ID information and resources available to libraries. PPA staff also weighed in on the role of libraries and civic engagement for AASL's *Knowledge Quest* article, "The Front Line of Civic Engagement" (November/December issue). Following the election results, PPA reported to ALA members on election outcomes in a memo from President Pelayo-Lozada and in the December 15 [ALA Connect Live](#) program. To support ALA's state partners in preparing for upcoming legislative sessions, PPA hosted a Chapter Advocacy Exchange "[Gearing up for 2023](#)."

COL SUBCOMMITTEES

Copyright, Legislation, Education and Advocacy Network (CLEAN)

CLEAN subcommittee members submitted two program proposals for ALA Annual conference in Chicago this June. One proposal on copyright and the K-12 environment. The second proposal is on implementation of the Music Modernization Act and other aspects regarding the use and licensing of musical works and sound recordings in library settings.

2023 will begin the regulatory exemption (37 C.F.R. § 201.40) to the Anti-Circumvention provisions of Section 1201 (new regulations expected in October 2023). As the process every three years is de novo CLEAN will work again to collect examples of library work being thwarted by the section 1201 prohibitions and the need for renewal of current exemptions and/or the need for new exemptions. CLEAN and COL will work to collect and forward to LCA legal representative Jonathon Band useful example to use in its submission to the Copyright Office.

Government Information Subcommittee (GIS)

This fall the GIS subcommittee has been discussing several items including GPO Task Force report on a Digital Federal Depository Library Program and the implications of the passage of the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), which contained the "Access to Congressionally Mandated Reports Act".

ISSUES AFFECTING LIBRARIES & INTELLECTUAL FREEDOM

ALA voices concern about overbroad "harmful to minors" legislation

On November 28, ALA signed a [coalition letter](#) in opposition to the Kids Online Safety Act (S. 3663). As written, the bill would have required online platforms to restrict minors' access to content deemed "harmful to minors," a standard that was vaguely and broadly written and which raised concerns that it could include, for instance, LGBTQ information. The bill's rules would have applied to some library online services, including online content licensed from commercial vendors. Following outreach by PPA, a revised version of the legislation was released which would have clarified the bill's standards and excluded most library services from its applicability. The bill did not advance prior to the end of the 117th Congress and therefore died with the end of that Congress.

Congress members voice concern about proliferation of book bans

In late 2022, Members of Congress introduced two resolutions expressing concern about the increasing efforts to ban books around the United States. On September 22, during Banned Books Week, Rep. Jamie Raskin (D-MD) and cosponsors introduced H.Res. 1392 "Recognizing 'Banned Books Week' and the sweeping attacks on books in the United States today, acknowledging the central role books play in promoting democratic and civil discourse, and urging recognition of the illegitimate tactics being used to ban books in K-12 classrooms, universities, prisons, and libraries." Sen. Brian Schatz (D-HI) and cosponsors introduced a companion resolution, S.Res. 838, on November 17. ALA supported both resolutions.

ALA monitoring bills in the 118th Congress

ALA expects an even more robust assault on broad access to books in libraries, and we expect that to extend to the U.S. House of Representatives. Two pieces of legislation introduced in 117th Congress are likely to be re-introduced this year:

- First, The Parents Bill of Rights, which includes a mandate that parents have access to a list of the books in the school library.
- The second bill is The Stop Sexualization of Children Act. This bill would prohibit institutions that receive any federal funding from "sexually-oriented" programs, events, and literature for

children under 10. The bill also would prohibit federal institutions from hosting or promoting literature and works, which promote sexual orientation.

We expect these bills, and possibly others, to have hearings and gain traction because of the change in control in the House. ALA will be vigorously engaged in Congress in both quiet and noisy advocacy, based on what makes sense as these bills emerge and evolve in the political process.

OTHER PPA OFFICE ACTIVITIES

ALA sends letter of concern to FBI regarding threats of violence in libraries

On September 27, the ALA Executive Board transmitted a [letter](#) to the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) expressing concerns about the threats directed to public and school libraries and library workers. PPA subsequently conducted outreach to the FBI and the U.S. Department of Justice regarding these concerns. Staff from the PPA and OIF offices spoke with the FBI regarding these threats and were informed that an arrest had been made in a related case.

COMMENTS AND AMICUS BRIEFS FILED

- [Coalition letter to Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona](#) in support of proposed Title IX rulemaking regarding sex-based discrimination (September 12, 2022)
- September 21 [Comments of the American Library Association to the FCC](#) advocating for the inclusion of comprehensive security tools on the list of eligible services under E-rate
- September 30 Comments of the American Library Association related to development of the ACP Outreach Grant Program, WC-Docket 21-450 (Archive link: <http://hdl.handle.net/11213/19256>)
- October 14 Comments filed on the Draft report of the Task Force on a Digital Federal Depository Library Program (Archive link: <http://hdl.handle.net/11213/19258>)
- [December 1 Library Copyright Alliance comments](#) on notice of proposed rulemaking: Termination rights and the Music Modernization Act's blanket license

LETTERS SUBMITTED

- September 21 School Districts Coalition Letter to FCC Regarding use of E-Rate Funds to Support Cybersecurity (Archive link: <http://hdl.handle.net/11213/18887>)
- [September 23 Letter to the Senate Homeland Security & Government Affairs Committee](#) supporting the confirmation of Dr. Colleen Shogan as Archivist of the United States
- October 5 [Letter in Support of Passing the Students' Right to Read Amendment Act of 2021](#)
- Letter Supporting Re-Appointment of Dr. Daniel A. Domenech to the Universal Service Administrative Company Board of Directors (Archive link: <http://hdl.handle.net/11213/19254>)
- October 24 Letter to North Allegheny School District Superintendent in Opposition to Proposals to Cut School Librarian Staff (Archive link: <http://hdl.handle.net/11213/19257>)
- October 27 Coalition [Letter to Congressional leadership](#) calling for \$1 billion in additional appropriation for the FCC's Emergency Connectivity Fund
- Coalition Letter in Support of Renewal of FCC Spectrum Auction Authority (Archive link: <http://hdl.handle.net/11213/19220>)
- Letter to Chairwoman Rosenworcel Regarding Citizens Broadband Radio Service (Archive link: <http://hdl.handle.net/11213/19223>)
- November 8 Coalition letter to all members of Congress calling for cosponsors of the EDUCATORS for America Act (S. 3360/H.R. 6205) introduced by Senator Reed & Rep. Adams (Archive link: <http://hdl.handle.net/11213/19275>)

- November 18 Coalition Letter Opposing S. 3663's Threats to Minors Privacy and Safety Online (Archive link: <http://hdl.handle.net/11213/19224>)
- November 21 Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF) Coalition Letter urging President Biden to extend the PSLF waiver (Archive link: <http://hdl.handle.net/11213/19274>)

TAKE ACTION

Please sign up for the Unite Against Book Bans campaign if you or your organization has not yet done so. Many have joined but many have not. <https://uniteagainstbookbans.org/>

You can subscribe to [ALA's advocacy alerts](#) to take targeted actions at key moments on federal policy. We only ask you to act when your advocacy is needed most. <http://ala.org/takeaction>

Also, if you want the latest library policy news and updates, please follow us on Twitter at [@LibraryPolicy](#).

**American Library Association (ALA)
Committee on Legislation
Federal Legislative and Public Policy Agenda for 2023**

Policymakers must ensure libraries are equipped to safely meet their communities' needs for technology access, education and learning, economic recovery and development, research, health and well-being, and civic engagement. Policies should support the contributions of libraries of all types, with emphasis on meeting the needs of underserved groups. Advancing access to information, sustainability, diversity, equity, and inclusion underpin and permeate our legislative advocacy. We will remain steadfast in our defense of intellectual freedom and library users' freedom to read.

ALA's Committee on Legislation encourages ALA members and library supporters to advocate for the following library priorities in 2023. ALA will monitor and engage on these and other federal issues that affect libraries and will join with partners and coalitions to promote strong and equitable libraries. We urge ALA members and library supporters to sign up as advocates and use ALA's advocacy resources to build effective relationships with decisionmakers. We will work to advance these agenda items before Congress and the Administration.

Funding and Support

Equitable federal funding for library services is essential to ensuring that every community in America has strong libraries. Key issues for 2023:

Dedicated library programs: Increase and maintain funding for the:

- Institute of Museum and Library Services, which administers the Library Services and Technology Act, with priority on services and technology for underserved communities;
- Innovative Approaches to Literacy program and support for school libraries through the Department of Education;
- Improving Library and Museum Facilities proposed program or other approaches to support library renovation and construction, sustainability, and resilience; and
- National library programs, including the Library of Congress, National Library of Medicine, National Agricultural Library, and the Federal Depository Library Program.

Library-eligible programs: Continue and enhance federal programs for which libraries are eligible recipients or partners. Recognize and support libraries' important roles in:

- K-12 and early education, including in reauthorizing the Every Student Succeeds Act;
- Higher education, including in reauthorizing the Higher Education Act;
- Economic and workforce development, including in reauthorizing the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act; and
- Other crucial community services, including through the National Endowment for the Humanities, Community Development Block Grants, and other applicable programs.

Library workers: Support and protect library workers, including promoting safe work environments and preserving library workers' eligibility for Public Service Loan Forgiveness.

Digital Inclusion and Skills

To promote digital equity, access to technology, and enable modern library services, libraries in all parts of the country must be able to serve their users with fast and affordable broadband, technology access, and digital skills training. Key issues for 2023:

E-rate: Improve outreach and technical assistance for applicants to increase library participation in the program, especially in underserved communities. Expand eligible uses.

Digital skills and economic opportunity: Expand support for libraries to deliver digital skills training and business and workforce development resources.

Content access and liability: Restore net neutrality protections. Preserve Section 230 of the Communications Decency Act liability protections for libraries.

Copyright, Licensing, and Competition

Libraries rely on balanced and flexible copyright policy to enable vital library services. ALA supports a modern copyright system with effective user rights and limitations and exceptions to copyright. Additionally, libraries rely on fair licenses and market practices in order to provide access to digital content such as e-books. Key issues for 2023:

E-books and digital content: Prevent unfair and anti-competitive practices that limit libraries' ability to meet their users' reading and information needs.

Copyright Office: Maintain the Librarian of Congress' authority to manage and oversee the Copyright Office.

Government Information and Services

Libraries provide access to government information and services in communities across the country. ALA supports policies that assist libraries in providing no-fee permanent public access to government information and equitable access to government services, which includes voting. Key issues for 2023:

Federal Depository Library Program: Modernize the Federal Depository Library Program.

Public access to research: Ensure public access to publicly funded research and data.