

TO: ALA Executive Board

RE: Public Policy and Advocacy Office Report

ACTION REQUESTED/INFORMATION/REPORT:

No action requested

CONTACT PERSON:

Kathi Kromer, Associate Executive Director

(202) 628-8410

kkromer@alawash.org

DATE: Wednesday, June 2, 2021

BACKGROUND:

Report of activities of ALA's Public Policy and Advocacy Office

ATTACHMENTS:

Public Policy and Advocacy Report

ALA PUBLIC POLICY AND ADVOCACY (PPA) OFFICE REPORT

FEDERAL FUNDING FOR LIBRARIES

With FY 2022 appropriations behind schedule, ALA advocates press forward

The Biden Administration submitted its budget on May 28, which supports \$265 million in total for IMLS in FY 2022, including \$197 million for the IMLS-administered Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA), and \$28 million for IAL in FY 2022 administered through the Department of Education. The proposed number for the full IMLS budget saw an increase of \$8 million from last year, which totaled \$257 million in FY 2021. The proposed funding for the LSTA and IAL are level with the FY 2021 final budget, both of which received increases from the previous year. The administration's budget for library programs reflects its focus on equity and inclusion, and ALA will continue to emphasize to Congress and the Administration that equity as a library priority. The \$8 million plus-up is a welcome change following four years of proposed elimination of IMLS.

The Federal budget process traditionally starts when the President submits the Administration's budget to Congress. In the first year of a new administration, this budget submission is often delayed while the administration gets its feet on the ground. The Biden Administration budget was further delayed due in part to the early focus on the COVID-19 pandemic, the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), and understaffing at key budget offices. While this delay was anticipated, ALA and library advocates continued to push for additional funding. In addition to the (previously reported) targeted virtual meetings held during National Library Week, the ALA PPA office led the library funding campaign on several fronts. The annual Dear Appropriator letters, delayed by several weeks, kicked off in April. PPA [engaged library advocates](#) to contact their Members of Congress to sign the fiscal year (FY) 2022 Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) and Innovative Approaches to Literacy (IAL) letters. When the House letters closed, more than 100 Representatives signed each letter (104 for LSTA and 110 for IAL), continuing five-straight years of 100+ signatures. The Senate letters, still open as of May 28, are expected to surpass the number of signatures from FY 2021. These letters support funding for school libraries, and state library agencies grants to public, academic, school, and special libraries.

PPA submits comments and partners with coalitions on additional federal library programs

In addition to PPA's work on the LSTA and IAL letters, PPA staff also worked with other organizations and coalitions to support programs that are library eligible, such as the Education Department's Title IV Student Support and Academic Enrichment Grant program, Literacy Education for All, Results for the Nation (LEARN) Act grants, Coalition for Education Funding, and Public Service Loan Forgiveness Coalition.

In April, PPA submitted a letter to Education Secretary Miguel Cardona, urging the Department to utilize the resources available from academic, public and school libraries as it distributes funding from ARPA. PPA also added ALA's support to an additional letter to Secretary Cardona urging the Department to strengthen the Public Service Loan Forgiveness program.

In early May, PPA responded to a request for information by the Department of Education concerning the IAL program. PPA solicited remarks from AASL members and filed comments. PPA also assisted ACRL in the development of its legislative priorities.

In May, PPA submitted testimony to the House Appropriations Committee calling for increases to LSTA and IAL programs. Senate testimony will be filed in June. Following the successful virtual meetings with

congressional offices in April, ALA PPA staff met with key Appropriations committee staff throughout the spring, making the case for increased funding for LSTA and IAL. PPA also worked with local advocates to set up additional virtual meetings with Members of Congress.

In late May, IMLS announced the availability of [\\$15 million in grants for libraries and museums](#) through funding provided in the ALA-supported ARPA. These competitive grants are available to all library types, including academic, public, school, special, state libraries, non-profits and others. ALA is working to ensure that the library community is aware of these grants ahead of the June 28 submission deadline.

PPA increases visibility and support for the Build America’s Libraries Act

PPA has been driving the campaign for the [Build America’s Libraries Act](#) (H.R. 1581 / S. 127), which would provide a historic \$5 billion for library construction and renovation. The bill’s cosponsors have now grown to 118 bipartisan Representatives as of May 28, 2021 – including a majority of House Democrats – and 21 Senators. The bill also been endorsed by 30 national organizations.

PPA staff have been rallying the library community, including by hosting an advocacy exchange with state library associations and state library agencies. Library supporters have been spreading the word about the need for the bill, with assistance from PPA; op-eds and letters to the editor have appeared in [The Hill \(Washington, D.C.\)](#), [Glens Falls \(N.Y.\) Post-Star](#), [Portland \(Maine\) Press-Herald](#), [CalMatters](#), [Louisville \(Ky.\) Courier-Journal](#), [Macomb \(Mich.\) Daily](#), [Santa Cruz \(Calif.\) Sentinel](#), [The Colorado Sun](#), [Eugene \(Ore.\) Register-Guard](#), [The Virginian-Pilot](#), [Capital \(Md.\) Gazette](#), [New York Times](#), [VTDigger](#), [Tacoma \(Wash.\) News Tribune](#), [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#), [Springfield \(Mo.\) News-Leader](#), [Anchorage Daily News](#), [Martinsburg \(W.Va.\) Journal](#), and [Delaware State News](#).

On May 20, PPA also released a [data brief](#) estimating the national need for public library construction and renovation at \$32 billion. Congressional negotiations on an infrastructure package, which could include funding for library facilities as envisioned in the Build America’s Libraries Act, are expected to continue into the summer.

Other infrastructure activities

ALA has also supported other legislative efforts to improve infrastructure that include libraries as eligible beneficiaries, including the Safe Drinking Water at Public Playgrounds, Parks, and Libraries Act (H.R. 3423), Open Back Better Act (H.R. 1485 / S. 531), and Energy Efficient Public Buildings Act (H.R. 1993).

PUBLIC POLICY

BROADBAND

FCC launches Emergency Broadband Benefit for home internet access

The \$3.2 billion Emergency Broadband Benefit (EBB) program, established as part of the pandemic relief bill passed by Congress in December 2020, provides a discount up to \$50 per month for broadband service (or up to \$75 per month on qualifying tribal lands) and a one-time discount up to \$100 for a laptop, desktop, or tablet computer purchased through a participating provider. Library staffers in all settings can help raise awareness of this new emergency funding. A customized press release, fact sheet, and newsletter blurb are available at www.ala.org/advocacy/broadband. The program is being administered by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), whose outreach [toolkit](#) is a collection of social media, printables, and other multilingual content to assist outreach partners, and grassroots

organizers in raising awareness about the Emergency Broadband Benefit. Aligned with the program launch, PPA staff customized and shared outreach materials via American Libraries [online](#) and AL Direct on May 12. Advocates also had the opportunity to join a national day of action on May 14 called by Next Century Cities, also hosting additional information and outreach strategies on its [website](#).

ALA works with FCC to implement \$7.17 billion Emergency Connectivity Fund (ECF)

A major focus of PPA has been on the new Emergency Connectivity Fund (ECF) program that was authorized by ARPA in March 2021. The FCC had 60 days to establish rules for the new program, and in March, initiated a Public Notice to call for stakeholder input. PPA filed [comments](#) and [reply comments](#) in response to the Public Notice. In addition to submitting comments on behalf of ALA, PPA coordinated with COSLA and Urban Libraries Council (ULC) to provide a strong library voice on questions raised from the FCC on how to prioritize available funding and the Children's Internet Protection Act. PPA also worked with AILA and ATALM to ensure tribal libraries would be eligible for the ECF program. Prior to the Commission vote, PPA's Marijke Visser, MSLIS, Senior Policy Advocate, and Arkansas State Library's Amber Gregory, Chair of ALA's E-rate Task Force, [met with](#) staff from the offices of Interim Chairwoman Rosenworcel, Commissioners Starks and Simington, and the Wireline Competition Bureau to voice concerns over some of the provisions in the FCC's draft order. Concerns raised included requirements to retain personally identifiable information of library patrons, allowing more flexibility for eligible services, as well as requesting changes to language related to tribal library eligibility. In early May, the FCC released the final rules for the ECF program. PPA prepared a [summary](#) of the order and provided overviews of the funding opportunity to COSLA, ALA Chapters, and AASL members as part of the ARPA outreach to members. PPA also held a webinar for state E-rate coordinators and are planning an additional Q&A session in early June. PPA, along with the E-rate Task Force, is also currently developing outreach resources to support libraries that choose to apply for funding when the application window opens later in June. These resources will be housed on ALA's website and updated regularly as additional information becomes available.

Additional broadband activities

In the spring, PPA Associate Director and Senior Policy Advocate Marijke Visser and Senior Director of Public Policy and Government Relations Dr. Alan Inouye, along with the Schools Health and Libraries Broadband Coalition (SHLB) and other education-focused groups, met with the staff at the National Economic Council leading the development of the broadband infrastructure provisions in President Biden's American Jobs Plan to discuss ALA and libraries' priorities.

The FCC's Advisory Committee on Diversity and Digital Empowerment will be finalizing its report to the Commission on the role of libraries in ensuring digital equity, and Marijke Visser was asked to review the working draft and provide updates on library activities to address the digital divide in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The final report is expected to be released in late summer.

Marijke Visser was invited to participate in a new coalition and research project led by Consumer Reports and the XLab at the University of Pennsylvania that will focus on developing broadband affordability, fairness metrics and recommendations to the FCC and other relevant federal agencies. The goal of the research is to secure accurate data to influence and reform federal broadband policy, expand affordable broadband access and increase awareness of unfair practices in the broadband market.

Marijke Visser also participated in a webinar on May 4, "[Broadband as a Human Right](#)," which is part of a series by the ALA Task Force on United Nations 2030 Sustainable Development Goals.

EBOOKS

A new Maryland law on library eBook access took effect on June 1. It is of the form, “if a publisher sells to the public, then it must also sell to libraries at reasonable terms.” ALA provided policy advice, [legal counsel](#), and communications advocacy assistance to the Maryland Library Association (MLA). ALA will continue to partner with MLA as appropriate. Legislation in Rhode Island was also recently introduced, and ALA is providing legal counsel and policy advice.

The Joint Digital Content Working Group released its report, with an article in the June issue of American Libraries. Additionally, the Panorama Project released its “Immersive Media and Books 2020” [study](#). ALA is a sponsor and member of the study committee for this study, and is a member of the overall [advisory council](#). Dr. Alan Inouye served on library eBook panels at the Texas Library Association and Maryland and Delaware Library Association annual conferences.

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

ALA files comments, begins meeting with Congressional committee staff on workforce policy

Responding to a call for input from stakeholders on policy ideas on workforce development from the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) Committee Chair and Ranking Member, ALA provided [comments](#) and has begun follow-up outreach with key committee staff in the Senate and House. The comments and meetings build on and provide more detail about how libraries are currently engaged in workforce and career services and how they could play a more significant role in equitable economic recovery as part of the American Jobs Plan and/or reauthorization of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act. A new two-page [overview](#) and related resources are available on the [ALA’s workforce innovation policy page](#).

COPYRIGHT

ALA participates in Copyright Office’s triennial anti-circumvention rulemaking

During the weeks of April 5 and April 12, ALA, as part of the [Library Copyright Alliance](#) (LCA), participated in the Digital Millennium Copyright Act’s [triennial rulemaking](#) to identify classes of works that are exempt from the Section 1201 anti-circumvention provision. LCA requested an exemption to circumvent DVDs and Blu-Ray discs in order for libraries to make preservation copies. Three media librarians from Hofstra University, University of California-Berkeley and Emory University testified, as well as legal counsel on behalf of ALA. In the past, ALA has been successful in getting exemptions for e-readers to enable text to speech functionality, for computer game preservation, and for circumvention of DVDs to create clips for classroom and research use.

Additional copyright activities

Carrie Russell, Senior Program Director and ALA Copyright Specialist, participated in several copyright-related speaking engagements, including:

- March 4 CopyTalk webinar, “Fair Use Best Practices for Open Educational Resources,” at the American University Washington School of Law;
- May 20 CopyTalk webinar, “20+years of copyright advocacy,” with Jonathan Band;
- May 7 “Copyright Issues in the days of online programming,” at the Joint Maryland and Delaware Library Associations conference; and

- April 22 “Copyright in the Age of Pandemics,” at the Texas Library Association conference.

ADVOCACY OUTREACH

PPA leads library advocacy during 2021 National Library Week and Take Action for Libraries Day

2021’s National Library Week saw significant engagement from members of Congress on social media, many of whom marked the week by reiterating their support for the Build America’s Libraries Act. During NLW, 23 members of Congress celebrated and thanked libraries and library workers. On the annual Take Action for Libraries Day, PPA organized several social media engagements for advocates, in addition to opportunities to advocate for the Build America’s Libraries Act and ALA’s annual Appropriations requests. Advocates shared stories about the importance of library funding and infrastructure and urged their members of Congress to keep libraries fully funded.

PPA staff also provided an opportunity for advocates to send messages to their members of Congress through its online advocacy platform on Take Action for Libraries Day. Advocates were encouraged to contact to their legislators to be added as cosponsors for the Build America’s Libraries Act, as well as gather additional signatures for the Dear Appropriator letters for the LSTA and IAL.

ALA positions libraries as national infrastructure during United for Infrastructure Week

May 10-14, 2021, marked the annual United for Infrastructure Week (UFIW), an opportunity to highlight and uplift examples of library infrastructure. As part of the broader campaign to pass the Build America’s Libraries Act, PPA staff encouraged libraries across the country to share stories and pictures of their library infrastructure on social media, and to engage their members of Congress on the issue. Throughout the week, dozens of libraries posted their stories on social media and urged their members of Congress to modernize and build library facilities. During UFIW, 6 members of Congress posted on social media supporting the Build America’s Libraries Act. PPA staff [developed a map](#) (see below) of libraries that shared a story on social media during UFIW, and [gathered examples](#) (see below and end of document) of some of the post highlights from the week. In addition to the social media campaign, PPA staff also sent out a targeted phone action alert to advocates who had previously sent messages to their legislators through a [infrastructure focused advocacy alert](#) in support of the Build America’s Libraries Act. Advocates phoned their legislators and left messages to further illustrate the need for Congress to recognize libraries as a critical part of the nation’s infrastructure. Thanks to ALA grassroots advocacy mobilization, key legislators signed onto the bill, including Senate Appropriations Committee member Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D-CA).



Kingston Library
@knglibrary_ny

We continue to support broadband access, despite needing an updated HVAC. Energy audit seen here is the 1st step.

This United for Infrastructure week, we hope @repdelgado, @SenSchumer, & @SenGillibrand see how important library infrastructure is!
#BuildLibraries #RebuildBetter



11:54 AM · May 11, 2021 · Twitter for Advertisers.

ALA hosts advocacy training and virtual meetings during National Library Week 2021

During National Library Week (April 5-9, 2021), ALA PPA staff organized targeted meetings with Members of Congress who are appropriators, along with some new Members that could be cultivated as library champions to request continued federal funding for libraries. Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, it was imperative that PPA staff develop a touchpoint with Congress to remind them of how libraries have been vital in their communities, by providing broadband access, telehealth support, and additional

resources for students and job seekers as education remains virtual and unemployment grows. During the week prior, PPA staff hosted a training webinar for participants to meet one another, address any outstanding questions, and prepare the advocates for their meetings with their members of Congress. ALA advocates and PPA staff met with members of Congress - both Democratic and Republican - in the House and Senate including 23 new legislators. The meetings led to a productive discussion with Members of Congress about the importance of libraries and sustained library funding. Several legislators also agreed to sign on in support of the Build America's Libraries Act.

ALA's Libraries Build Business continues program development

The Libraries Build Business cohort continues implementation of their small business and entrepreneur development programs. Most programs are being offered virtually or with other modifications due to COVID-19; however, as many libraries reopen, library small business programs have been able to offer some in-person business services.

Beyond the day-to-day project implementation, the project team and the LBB cohort are working on big picture goals of scaling the community and developing promising practices and resources to share with the field. The LBB cohort continues bi-weekly meetings for peer learning and sharing and professional development. Guest speakers included continued work on equity, diversity, and inclusion with a presentation by LaKeshia Kimbrough, EDI consultant, on the Cultural Humility Framework, and business legal issues with Ryan Metheny from the Los Angeles Law Library. Additionally, cohort members shared presentations focused on the highlights and challenges of their programs, and read and discussed *The Entrepreneur Roller Coaster* by Darren Hardy.

In addition to the peer learning network for the cohort, LBB continues to expand and scale the LBB Community to new members interested in small business and entrepreneur programs in public libraries. Cohort members, along with the ALA project team, co-manage the community Slack discussion board, welcoming new members and answering questions. In Summer 2021, the cohort will offer coaching and mentoring opportunities to interested library workers. Selected coaches will receive additional grant funding from LBB and be named a LBB Fellow. Coaches will also receive professional development and training as they take on this new leadership role.

The ALA project team continues its partnership with Cicero Group for measurement and evaluation. The team is working on updating the data collection instruments as part of the continuous improvement process, based on feedback from cohort members as they use them with business owners in their programs. The data collection instruments, Theory of Change, and Evaluation Framework will all be made available with the project resources at the end of the project period. In addition, the project team will partner with Project Outcome at PLA to offer some of the LBB evaluation materials through the Project Outcome platform. This is an exciting opportunity for library workers and ALA to access and use data to plan programs and services.

The LBB project team has also started an exciting partnership with ALA Editions to produce a book, tentatively called *35 Library Programs to Build Business*. This book will share promising small business development programs in libraries for other libraries to adopt, as well as insights from the LBB project. The book is scheduled for completion in December 2021.

Libraries Build Business will offer two on-demand sessions at ALA Annual Virtual Conference: *Libraries Build Business and Economic Resilience*, and *Pandemic Pivot: Innovative Small Business Development Programs*. Each session will feature a panel of speakers from the cohort. In addition, LBB will host a

networking event during the conference to engage others in small business and entrepreneur development and promote the opportunity to join the peer learning network and receive coaching services.

Libraries Build Business also did a variety of outreach and promotional events, including:

- A National Library Week Networking Mixer, attended by 16 new people, in addition to the LBB cohort and project team.
- Monthly Instagram Live events with LBB cohort members. The April event featured [Madeleine Idefonso from Los Angeles Public Library](#), and in May, [Rachael Svoboda from Laramie County Library System](#).
- A presentation at the Maine Library Association conference on May 24: Libraries Build Business in Maine.
- A presentation at the Michigan Library Association *The Business of Libraries* event on April 28.

In late March, the LBB project finalized a two-page resource: [Sustaining Small Businesses and Entrepreneurs During the Pandemic and Beyond](#). This resource is based on the November 2020 paper, [Open to Change: Libraries Catalyze Small Business Adaption to COVID-19](#), but customized to engage stakeholders outside of libraries in the work libraries have done during COVID-19 to support business. The project team identified a summer 2021 intern through a competitive interview process.

ALA continues Policy Corps engagement online; prepares to recruit next cohort

After a pandemic year delayed and shifted training and collaboration online for the [third cohort](#) of Policy Corps members, the [Policy Corps Advisory Group](#) is reviewing recent work and looking ahead to recruit the fourth cohort of members. In addition to monthly webinars with the third cohort, Corps members across all years have collaborated on a range of policy and advocacy efforts both in small groups and individually, including:

- collaborating on school library advocacy aimed at the [Biden Administration](#), Congress, Education Secretary Miguel Cardona, and state leaders with AASL and chapter leaders, including [potential opportunities](#) available to schools and school districts through ARPA;
- collaborating on ALA's comments to the FCC on the Emergency Broadband Benefit program;
- hosting a [virtual library tour](#) with Congressman Andy Levin, co-developing a [new case study](#), writing [op-eds](#), and leading other Congressional outreach as part of the [Build America's Libraries Act](#) advocacy;
- completing a white paper on controlled digital lending with ALA Past President James Neal;
- developing and publishing an [op-ed](#) flagging concerns about the Copyright Alternative in Small-Claims Enforcement (CASE) Act of 2020 in the Journal of Copyright in Education and Librarianship;
- sharing work developing a local digital equity coalition as part of an ALA UN 2030 Sustainable Development Goals Task Force [webinar](#);
- presenting as part of a panel on "Internet Access is a Racial Justice Issue" hosted by Connect Humanity;
- completing research related to [library advocacy work by librarians of color](#); and
- participating in targeted appropriations meetings with House and Senate leaders.

The Advisory Group will meet in June to discuss status and next steps, including recruitment for a fourth cohort in late summer or early fall.

ALA continues engagement with National Network

The National Network continues its monthly Key Contact calls, led by PPA's Kathi Kromer and Jil Staszewski, Assistant Director of Advocacy Communications, along with David Lusk, founder of Key Advocacy. During these calls, PPA staff provide Key Contacts with any significant updates to ALA's legislative activities, and facilitates an advocacy action for members to complete. Throughout the spring, Key Contacts were asked to post on social media and contact their members of Congress to commemorate Take Action for Libraries Day and United for Infrastructure Week.

ALA deepens collaboration on civic engagement

In late March, PPA coordinated with the National League of Cities' (NLC) Local Democracy Initiative to publish an article in NLC's Cities Speak blog, [Finding our Way Back to Civic Dialogue through Libraries](#). PPA is hosting a program on civic engagement at ALA Annual, [Towards a More Perfect Union: Libraries Engaging Communities in Civic Dialogue](#). The discussion features library staff from public, academic, and school libraries across the country, and will be facilitated by Nancy Kranich, founder and chair of ALA's Center for Civic Life advisory committee.

ALA hosts state-related training and events

In collaboration with the Chapter Relations Office, PPA co-hosted Chapter Advocacy Exchanges in April, [Libraries and the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021](#), and May, [Build America's Libraries Act: States Advocate for Library Infrastructure](#). PPA also hosted a webinar on ARPA for AASL chapter leaders, and developed a [toolkit of resources](#) for libraries of all types to advocate for ARPA funding at the state and local level.

On May 13, PPA's Kathi Kromer, Associate Executive Director, gave a virtual presentation to the Special Libraries Association (SLA) Public Policy Advisory Committee. On May 18, Kathi Kromer participated in a recorded interview with Andrew Albanese for [U.S. Book Show](#) regarding ALA's overall public policy program and advocacy efforts.

ALA supports state legislative activity

In addition to supporting state legislative advocacy in collaboration with the Chapter Relations Office, Office for Intellectual Freedom, and ALA units, PPA works with state chapters on specific federal legislation that impacts state and local funding or operations, as well as national campaigns; in recent months, that activity has related to ARPA, Build America's Libraries Act and ALA's annual appropriations campaign.

Most states have finished or are winding down their legislative sessions. Bills related to elimination of "harmful to minors" exemptions for public and/or school librarians were defeated in several states including Georgia, Minnesota, Nebraska and Indiana. Excessive filtering bills were mitigated or held in a number of states. Bills inaccurately framing and [banning critical race theory](#) are gaining traction, and have recently passed in a number of states—including [Idaho](#), [Oklahoma](#), and [Tennessee](#)—and are under consideration in others, including [Texas](#), [South Carolina](#), and [Michigan](#). A separate, end-of-session legislative report is submitted by PPA and the Office for Intellectual Freedom.

In addition, PPA has consulted with states on legislation relating to broadband, eBooks, funding, school libraries, and other bills that impact libraries, library workers, or library patrons. For example, ALA has consulted with the Tennessee Association of School Librarians in their advocacy for passage of a [bill](#) that would reestablish the state school library coordinator position at the Department of Education. The bill

did not advance out of committee this session but has gained support and is expected to be reintroduced next year.

PPA assists with advocacy at the local level

Since mid-March, PPA has assisted advocates in states including New Jersey, Nebraska, Illinois, Ohio, Kansas, Maine, and Michigan on a range of local issues, from governance to funding. PPA submitted numerous joint letters on behalf of ALA President, Julius Jefferson and AASL President, Kathy Carroll, including to the [DC Mayor and City Council](#) in support of DC school librarians.

On the heels of its successful partnership with the Women's Suffrage Centennial Commission, PPA was contacted by the White House Historical Association about partnering to distribute a children's picture book to underserved public and school libraries in the DC-Maryland-Virginia metro area (DMV), with an author visit to one of the donation recipients. That distribution will happen during June.

PPA expands outreach to state, local library communicators

On April 29, PPA Assistant Director, Communications Shawnda Hines presented a workshop for the first in a series of professional development webinars for the Library Marketing and Communications Conference, [Harnessing your advocacy powers: Library communicators as influencers](#). The presentation examined how some library communicators across the nation are sharing success stories and challenges to reach elected leaders and other community influencers. Based on ALA successes, the webinar highlighted proven strategies and tactics for cultivating ongoing support for libraries and provided resources to demonstrate your library value using various communications assets.

PPA Committees lead on advocacy resources, engage with ALA divisions

During School Library Month (March), Committee on Library Advocacy (COLA) member Kathy Lester published an [op-ed](#) about school library legislation in Michigan. The committee COLA will release a school library advocacy infographic for release at ALA Annual. COLA is co-sponsoring a program at ALA Annual called [Learning Library Advocacy by Doing: LIS Graduate Student Advocacy Internships](#); panelists include COLA member Anthony Chow, Chair, Justin de la Cruz, and PPA's Megan Cusick, Assistant Director of State Advocacy. COLA's Ecosystem Subcommittee's continued outreach includes a June article by member Rachel Minkin for *College & Research Libraries News*.

PPA ACTIVITY (March-May 2021)

Coalition and Office Letters

- March 3, sent Coalition Letter to the US Senate Regarding the Emergency Connectivity Fund and Addressing the Homework Gap <http://hdl.handle.net/11213/16156>
- March 8, sent Letter to Rep. Beatty in support of resolution supporting goals and ideals of National Deaf history month
- March 10, sent Letter to Secretary of the Dept. of Homeland Security Regarding Notice of Proposed Rulemaking 85 Fed. Reg. 74162, Collection of Biometric Data from Aliens Upon Entry to and Departure from the United States
- March 12, sent Letter to President Biden in support of review of semiconductor supply chain and availability of education technology
- April 16, sent Letter to the Secretary of Education Applauding the Inclusion of Funding for School Librarians in the American Rescue Plan Act <http://hdl.handle.net/11213/16649>

- April 19, sent Letter to West Orange Public Schools Opposing Cuts to Library Staff <http://hdl.handle.net/11213/16656>
- April 29, sent Letter to the Superintendent Clearview Regional High School District Opposing the Dismantling of the School Library Media Program <http://hdl.handle.net/11213/16650>
- May 5, sent Letter to FCC Regarding the Emergency Connectivity Fund, Homework Gap, and Modernizing the E-rate Program <http://hdl.handle.net/11213/16655>
- May 10, sent Letter to Glen Ridge Public Schools Opposing Cuts to School Library Staff <http://hdl.handle.net/11213/16654>
- May 10, sent Letter to West Orange Public Schools Applauding the Restoration of School Library Staff <http://hdl.handle.net/11213/16657>
- May 12, sent Letter to Miguel Cardona in support of Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program <http://hdl.handle.net/11213/16648>

Comments Filed

- March 10: Reply Comments of the Library Copyright Alliance to Oppositions to Proposed Class 5 Petition
- April 5: Comments filed regarding The Emergency Connectivity Fund for Educational Connections and Devices to Address the Homework Gap during the Pandemic <http://hdl.handle.net/11213/16267>
- April 26: Library Copyright Alliance Comments On Case Act Notice Of Inquiry <http://hdl.handle.net/11213/16647>
- May 10: Library Copyright Alliance Reply Comments On Case Act Notice Of Inquiry <http://hdl.handle.net/11213/16646>

Additional examples of ALA member social media posts about library facility needs during United For Infrastructure Week (see description above):



