

**ALA Committee on Legislation
Report to Council
2019 Midwinter Meeting – Seattle, Washington
Rob Banks
Chair, ALA Committee on Legislation
January 28, 2019**

Public Policy Highlights

As we begin 2019, the Committee on Legislation (COL) would like to pause and reflect on what we accomplished last year in the advocacy and policy realm.

2018 and 2019 Fiscal Year Funding Campaigns

As you will remember—in 2018—the federal budget was not complete. We were still fighting for the restoration of the 2018 IMLS funds, which had been zeroed out. Nonetheless, after the 2018 State of the Union and presentation of the proposed 2019 budget (which again zeroed out IMLS) ALA rolled out our FY 2019 appropriations campaign from the Midwinter conference in Denver. ALA's improved communications, social media, and advocacy efforts helped hold steady our support for the Dear Appropriators letters and we engaged more chapters than in the past. We wrapped up the FY18 budget, working remotely in Philadelphia to announce the good news from the Public Library conference in March. Despite the chaos, ALA increased IMLS funding by \$9 million for FY-18 and \$2 million in FY-19.

Legislative Accomplishments

In addition to the budget cycle, ALA passed five public laws. After more than decade of work, the Marrakesh Treaty signed into law, ensuring wider access to printed materials for those with visual impairments. The Music Modernization Act signed into law, fixing some loopholes in copyright law pertinent to sound recordings and enforcing exemptions for fair use, libraries, first sale, and ephemeral copies. The Open, Public, Electronic, and Necessary (OPEN) Government Data Act was included as part of the Foundations for Evidence-Based Policymaking Act was signed into law, improving public access to government data. After 20 years of advocacy by ALA, provision requiring public access to Congressional Research Service (CRS) was included in the omnibus appropriations law signed in March. Last but not least, the Museum and Library Services Act (MLSA), became Public Law, 115-410 when it was signed it on December 31.

Five public laws is a historic level of achievement. In the 115th Congress: 13,556 bills were introduced and only 443 became law; just 3% of everything that was introduced. Out of those 443 bills that became laws, 5 of them were ours.

ALA staff and advocates worked tirelessly to make this happen and we should be very proud.

COL would like to acknowledge library advocates from Wisconsin, who were able to place two letters to the editor in newspapers in Congressional District 1 during the MLSA campaign. This fabulous advocacy work was the key to pushing the former Speaker of the House to keep his promise to pass MLSA at the end of the 115th Congress.

In Washington, D.C., stopping bills is often as good as passing them. ALA advocates worked to stop the Register of Copyright bill. In a matter of days, this action alert had the highest level of engagement in 2019.

And, in addition to passing and blocking, we also were instrumental in introducing the Tribal Connect Act, focused on improving digital access in tribal libraries and the Federal Depository Library Program (FDLP) Modernization Act, focused on modernizing the FDLP across the country.

In addition, the D.C. team hosted two outstanding Hill events during National Library Week focusing on Tribal Broadband and Makerspaces. Four members of Congress and their staff attended, as well as the Archivist of the United States. Back at home, ALA successfully held our first in-district event in Ohio with Congresswoman Marcia Fudge (OH-11), workforce development leaders, and local libraries.

Partnerships and Grants

The Libraries Ready to Code initiative launched their official website and rolled out mini grants to libraries all across the country. The Ready to Code team has also received \$1.5 million in funding from the Grow with Google initiative to support and highlight library workforce programs - the first of which rolled out yesterday at the Free Library in Philadelphia.

We have developed a successful partnership with the U.S. Census Bureau and recently received a \$75,000 grant to support ALA's awareness and education efforts about the 2020 Census, which will be primarily held online for the first time.

Organizational Changes

Internally, the Public Policy and Advocacy team has evolving and growing. As you know, the Washington Office reorganized and welcomed the Office of Library Advocacy staff to their team. This shift has been an intentional effort to better align our national, state, and local advocacy efforts.

A project that happened quietly but which is just as impactful as our work on the Hill has been our website overhaul and upgrade. The recent membership study found that 81% of ALA's members were highly satisfied with our advocacy resources and tools on the web, but only 17% of members used them. In other words, highly valued, but underused. With feedback and guidance from Loida's presidential advocacy committee and COL, ALA undertook a full redesign of the advocacy tools on ala.org/advocacy. The refreshed pages are organized around growing and cultivating our advocates' skill set and the collection features video as well as new plug-and-play resources and self-serve downloads that can be used by school, academic, public and special libraries. We are now working closely with our grassroots subcommittee to roll-out new tools and videos throughout 2019.

New Outreach Tools

As we kick-off the new Congress, ALA is working to upgrade their outreach tactics. Thanks to the partnership and creative efforts of two local libraries, the national library outreach toolbox received a big upgrade at the start of 2019. The D.C. Public Library and the Harford County Public Library in Belcamp, MD teamed up to create the first ever 3D printed, laser cut challenge coin.

The laser cut side of the coin was designed and produced by D.C. Public Library's fab lab. The 3D printed side was produced by a team of tech-savvy library workers across the Harford County Public Library system in Belcamp, MD. Pictures of both sides are attached.

The two public libraries produced 535 coins – one for every member of Congress. The goal is to get members of Congress and their staff to hold a tangible example of what modern libraries are able to produce and provide to their communities. Distribution of the coins has started and they are already creating a really positive buzz.

In early February, ALA will make the 3D and laser cut patterns freely available via our advocacy website. We hope that ALA advocates across the country will download and create their own coins in their home libraries for their local leaders and champions.

In short, 2018 was a historical year for library legislation, and 2019 is off to a strong and creative start. COL looks forward to supporting what ALA's incredible team sets out to accomplish this year.

For additional information about recent developments in public policy and advocacy, please refer to the [2019 Midwinter Washington Office Report \(CD #30\)](#).

Committee on Legislation Activities

After a robust discussion with a delegation of representatives from the Chief Officers of State Library Agencies (COSLA), COL also moved: to create an Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) Task Force to focus on the resolution adopted by the Chief Officers of State Library Agencies (COSLA) in December 2018 in support of future funding for the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) Grants to States Program. The mission of the LSTA Task Force is to explore the short term goal of raising IMLS funds an additional \$17 million to fully fund the base allotment and to the reauthorized level as a next step. The LSTA Task Force will develop strong, collaborative long term strategies and tactics for future increases in IMLS funding. Membership of the LSTA Task Force will include but not be limited to COL members as well as representatives from United for Libraries, COSLA, Urban Libraries Council, Chapters, and other interested parties such as American Indian Library Association. The Task Force will commit to providing a preliminary report by Annual 2019.

COL brings four resolutions to Council (Council action requested). The Committee on Legislation proposes the following resolutions to Council:

- 2018-2019 ALA CD#20.1: Resolution Observing Public Domain Day on January 1, 2019
- 2018-2019 ALA CD#20.2: Resolution on Public Access to Congressional Service Reports
- 2018-2019 ALA CD#20.3: Resolution Commending the Reauthorization of the Museum and Library Services Act
- 2018-2019 ALA CD#20.4: Resolution Celebrating the U.S. Ratification and Passage of the Marrakesh Treaty Implementation Act

In addition, COL endorses the Resolution in Support of Civil Rights Protections for People of Diverse Gender Identities.

COL modernizes committee activities: The Committee on Legislation has completed our review of our charge, subcommittees, and meetings, in order to improve collaboration and coordination in ALA's public policy and advocacy efforts. Before 2018, COL's charge was last revised in 1962. In light of ALA's evolution and modernization over the last six decades, COL wanted their charge to more accurately reflect the proactive, year-round advocacy work of ALA. COL voted and approved a new Guidelines for Subcommittee Composition and Appointment document to guide the work of the committee. COL submitted the revised draft charge to the Committee on Organization (COO) and it has been adopted. COL's charge now reads:

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 and Advocacy Office, the association's strategic priorities.

- Recommend, annually, based on consultation with the Public Policy and 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 introduces 2019 legislative agenda: COL has developed and approved a legislative agenda to strengthen and guide ALA’s advocacy efforts through the first year of the 116th Congress, the full text of which is included as an addendum in this report. This agenda will annually highlight priorities for federal legislation, reflecting current opportunities with the greatest impact on libraries. The goals of the agenda are to raise issue awareness in the library community and to focus the work of the ALA staff.

COL reaches out to ALA divisions: COL members have, once again, reached out to the boards of each ALA division prior to Annual and offered to present information about the association’s legislative activities and hear questions or suggestions from the divisions. COL members attended the meetings of the children and youth divisions, ASGCLA, ALCTS/LLAMA, PLA, and ACRL boards. COL will provide written information to the other division boards to engage them in discussions about how to engage with the association’s policy advocacy.

COL considers future of Policy Corps: COL was pleased to welcome the 2019 cohort of the Policy Corps. Going forward, COL will discuss how the program can continue in future years in order to continue developing member expertise and relationships with policymakers.

COL encourages all ALA members to advocate for library priorities: Successful advocacy for library policy priorities relies on the active and continued engagement of ALA members as community leaders and policy advocates. COL encourages library professionals and supporters to join in the ongoing work of fostering relationships with policymakers in their communities. COL asks ALA members to consider inviting their members of Congress to visit a local library this summer to show them how the library is transforming your community. ALA’s public policy and advocacy staff can advise ALA members on how to begin working with the staff in your congressional district office.

COL also extends its thanks to new Council Secretariat Marsha Burgess, who has survived her first-ever ALA conference as Council’s guide and steward. Let’s have a round of applause for her work to keep the Committee on Legislation — and all of us — on track.

Resolution Observing Public Domain Day on January 1, 2019

Whereas for the first time in over 20 years, on January 1, 2019, published works entered the public domain in the United States;

Whereas works published in the United States from 1923, including books, films, and music are now free for all to re-publish, repurpose, and build upon, without permission or fee;

Whereas public domain materials are more available in more editions and formats, cost less, and more likely to be available in print than protected works;

Whereas all creators and authors build on existing culture and knowledge to create new works protected by copyright, thereby advancing the Constitutional purpose of the copyright law to “promote the progress of science and useful arts;

Whereas the U.S. Constitution directs Congress to create a copyright law “for limited times,”

Whereas learning, teaching, and research depend on a robust public domain;

Whereas libraries, archives, museums, historical societies and others can preserve content in the public domain without authorization, ensuring that the cultural record is secured;

Whereas libraries, archives, museums, historical societies and others can rescue public domain materials on the verge of being lost to future generations due to deterioration;

Whereas digitization of public domain works further expands access to content;

Whereas legislation to extend to copyright term was not introduced; now, therefore, be it

Resolved that the American Library Association (ALA), on behalf of its members:

1. will celebrate annually Public Domain Day, which places thousands of works published in 1923 in the public domain this year;
2. marks the end of the additional twenty years of protection that retroactively prevented works from entering the public domain; and
3. welcomes the entry of thousands of works to the public domain with each passing year.

Resolution on Public Access to Congressional Service Reports

Whereas, the Congressional Research Service (CRS) is a federal agency, housed within the Library of Congress, that prepares public policy research for members of Congress, including nonconfidential publications;

Whereas the American Library Association passed the “Resolution on Congressional Research Service Publications” at its 1998 Midwinter Meetings in New Orleans (January 14, 1998; Council Document 2003) to “urge the Joint Committee on the Library, the Senate Rules and Administration Committee, and the House Oversight Committee to take immediate action to assure that publicly released Congressional Research Service reports in information products are distributed in a timely manner to the general public through Federal Depository Libraries and on the Internet”

Whereas, the American Library Association passed the “Resolution on the Need to Improve Public Access to Government Information During the 107th Congress” at its 2000-2001 Midwinter Conference, CD# 20.3 “urge Congress to enact legislation establishing the affirmative responsibility of the federal government to provide current, continuous, and future public access to government information at no fee to the public; ensuring the authenticity and integrity of electronic government information in all formats, and ; improving and facilitating public access to government information in all formats/media through comprehensive identification, cataloging, indexing, locator, and verification activities that are centrally coordinated by the Superintendent of Documents”

Whereas, on March 23, 2018 the President of the United States signed the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2018 (PL 115-141) which directed the Library of Congress to establish a public website with free access to CRS reports.

Whereas, on September 17, 2018 Librarian of Congress Carla D. Hayden announced that the Library of Congress is providing public access to CRS reports at <https://crsreports.congress.gov>

Whereas, over 800 CRS reports have since been made accessible through the Government Publishing Office’s Catalog of Government Publications (<https://catalog.gpo.gov/>)

Therefore be it resolved that the American Library Association gratefully acknowledges the efforts of legislators who secured this long sought provision, particularly Representatives Tim Ryan (D-OH) and Mike Quigley (D-IL), former Representatives Kevin Yoder (R-KS) and Leonard Lance (R-NJ), Senator Patrick Leahy (D-VT), and the late Senator John McCain (R-AZ) for improving the nation’s access to taxpayer funded information resources, and

Encourages the Library of Congress and Congressional Research Service to continue development of the website in order to provide the most comprehensive and useful public access, and to invite suggestions for improving public access from librarians and users; and

Thanks all ALA members and others that have over the years advocated for access to CRS reports as well as improved access to our governments’ information in all formats or media.

Resolution Commending the Reauthorization of the Museum and Library Services Act

Whereas the Museum and Library Services Act (MLSA) reauthorizes the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA);

Whereas LSTA has stimulated library innovation, digital literacy, 21st century skills, improved services and facilities, literacy, interlibrary and interagency cooperation, resource sharing, and workforce resources and services, and library and information science research;

Whereas, improvements to the MLSA will increase opportunities for tribal communities in LSTA grants, support library roles in disaster preparedness and response, and improve IMLS library data collections and availability;

Whereas LSTA enhances current training opportunities for library professionals and supports the development of a diverse library workforce, including an authorization of the Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian Program;

Whereas the reauthorization will update LSTA to better reflect the role that libraries play in our nation's communities and ensure the preservation of collections;

Whereas the LSTA reauthorization received bipartisan support led by Senators Jack Reed (D-RI), Susan Collins (R-ME), Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY), Lisa Murkowski (R-AK), and Lamar Alexander (R-TN), and Representatives Raul Grijalva (D-AZ), Will Hurd (R-TX), Leonard Lance (R-NJ), and David McKinley (R-WV);

Whereas the MLSA reauthorization was passed unanimously without amendments by the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) Committee, and the full Senate;

Whereas, the ALA Public Policy and Advocacy Unit, through its presence in Washington, facilitated the quick and overwhelming passage of MLSA, holding numerous meetings with Congress, quickly responding to last minute objections, and adeptly mobilizing grassroots and grasstops;

Whereas the MLSA reauthorization was passed overwhelmingly by the House of Representatives; and

Whereas the President signed MLSA into law on December 31, 2018.

Resolved the American Library Association commends the leadership of Senators Jack Reed (D-RI), Susan Collins (R-ME), Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY), Lisa Murkowski (R-AK), and Lamar Alexander (R-TN); and Representatives Raul Grijalva (D-AZ), Will Hurd (R-TX), Leonard Lance (R-NJ), and David McKinley (R-WV); as well as the many members of the United States Senate and House of Representatives for their efforts to sustain the federal role supporting library services as the cornerstone of our nation's information infrastructure.

Resolution Celebrating the U.S. Ratification and Passage of the Marrakesh Treaty Implementation Act

Whereas ALA promotes equal access to information for all people;

Whereas the right to read is a fundamental human right and central to a free society;

Whereas the vast majority of published works are not available in formats that are accessible to people with print disabilities;

Whereas the circulation of accessible copies needs to be expanded around the world;

Whereas ALA advocated for an international treaty that was signed on June 27, 2013 at the World Intellectual Property Organization for an exception to copyright for people with print disabilities;

Whereas ALA worked with library associations, the publishing industry, the National Federation of the Blind, and American Council for the Blind to develop legislative language agreeable to all parties;

Whereas the international treaty and its implementing legislation includes the making of digital copies, expanding access and distribution:

Whereas libraries can play a greater role in improving the lives of people with disabilities because they are identified as “authorized entities” who can make accessible copies as an exception to copyright law;

Whereas the definition of the “print disabled” in the treaty and implementing legislation includes people with physical disabilities that prevent them from using a print book, people with dyslexia and people with learning disabilities, clarifying the beneficiary pool;

Whereas people with print disabilities who speak a language other than English will have access to accessible copies in foreign languages;

Whereas the United States can share accessible copies to eligible contracting parties around the world, including developing countries;

Whereas the Marrakesh Treaty Implementation Act was passed unanimously in Congress and was signed by the President; now, therefore be it,

Resolved that the American Library Association

1. celebrates the passage of the Marrakesh Treaty Implementation Act of 2018.
2. urges all libraries and their staff serving persons with print disabilities to avail themselves of appropriate resources in order to implement provisions of the Marrakesh Treaty.

Subcommittee Reports

Copyright

COL's Copyright Subcommittee and the OITP Advisory Committee's Copyright Education Subcommittee have merged, creating a new Copyright Legislation, Education and Advisory Network (CLEAN) reporting as a subcommittee to COL. CLEAN developed a new charge statement for COL review and plans to continue all aspects of its prior work including copyright education, monthly webinars, programming at conferences, the Copyright Advisory Network, copyright legislation and input on regulatory filings. At this conference, CLEAN sketched out plans for working with new members of the House Judiciary Committee.

Government Information

The Government Information Subcommittee met jointly with the Government Documents Roundtable's Legislation Committee. The members heard a presentation from Anthony D. Smith of the Government Publishing Office. The members discussed the Resolution on Public Access to Congressional Research Service reports and recommended that COL bring the resolution to Council. The resolution recognizes the recent policy victory, which ALA advocated for over the past 20 years, making Congressional Research Service reports available to the public. The members also discussed the legislative outlook for government information issues in 2019.

Grassroots

The Grassroots subcommittee meeting focused on uncovering and exploring relationships between ALA advocates in the field and key members of Congress and their staff in the 116th Congress. Grassroots also discussed how to get message out on ALA's new website and advocacy communication tools. Chair Nikki Scarpitti lead the group through a brainstorming session about potential new tools and how ALA and grassroots can better collect and enable collection of valuable relationship building information. The subcommittee is planning to host a webinar in late February or early March as a way to walk ALA advocates through the new web pages.

Telecommunications

The COL Telecommunications Subcommittee met on Saturday. Chair Amelia Kallaher was not able to travel to Seattle for Midwinter, so the meeting was run by Subcommittee member Pat Ball. Kevin Maher updated the members on a range of policy activities including net neutrality, E-rate, the Tribal Broadband Act, and the Digital Equity Act. The Subcommittee reviewed the activities of COL and the OITP Advisory Committee. Pat reviewed Washington Office organizational changes. A review of the COL's charge and the COL Telecommunications Subcommittee's charge were also discussed. Finally, the Subcommittee discussed agenda ideas for the Annual meeting in Washington. The Subcommittee is interested in hosting or co-hosting a policy program at Annual; Kevin will investigate what options are available. Several ideas for a Subcommittee meeting were discussed.

Committee on Legislation
Guidelines for Subcommittee Composition and Appointment
Adopted on January 28, 2019

The [ALA Policy Manual](#) provides:

Subcommittees in the ALA structure may be formed by a parent group to carry out specific duties related to the charge of the parent group. Such subcommittees are appointed by the chair of the parent committee, but are not limited to members of the parent committee; they do not have a separate life and must report to the parent committee for action. They can be abolished by decision of the parent committee. (A.4.3.7)

The Committee on Legislation (COL) from time to time forms subcommittees to support and advise its work. COL establishes the following guidelines as expectations for its subcommittees.

1. The COL chair will appoint a minimum of 7 members and a maximum of 15 members to each subcommittee.
2. Subcommittee member terms:
 - a. Generally, each subcommittee member will be appointed to a two-year term on the subcommittee.
 - b. Each subcommittee's members' terms will be staggered so that no more than 50% plus one of its members' terms expire in a given year.
 - c. In the case of early vacancies, new members will be appointed to complete a partial term.
 - d. If the COL chair appoints additional members to a subcommittee, the chair shall assign new members to one-year terms as necessary to maintain that no more than 50% plus one of the subcommittees' members' terms expire in a given year.
3. Each subcommittee chair will be appointed to a one-year term as chair. In the case of early vacancies, new chairs will be appointed to complete a partial term.
4. The COL chair will appoint subcommittee members and chairs by August 30 for that ALA year.
5. The COL chair may appoint ALA members who are not COL members to a subcommittee.
6. The COL chair will offer an expression of interest form for ALA members to volunteer for appointment to a subcommittee.
7. There is an expectation that all COL members must serve on a subcommittee. The COL chair will appoint a minimum of one COL member to each subcommittee.
8. Each subcommittee chair will liaise with COL or designate a liaison. Each subcommittee chair or liaison will report to COL on the subcommittee's activities at each Annual and Midwinter conference or as requested by the COL chair.

**American Library Association
Committee on Legislation
Legislative Agenda for 2019
January 28, 2019**

Strategic, effective advocacy is central to ALA's mission and essential to the future of America's libraries. The Committee on Legislation encourages ALA members to advocate on the following [federal issues](#) in 2019. While many public policy issues affect libraries, the high impact of the issues below on libraries and the high opportunity for ALA members to influence these issues in 2019 makes them advocacy priorities. As always, ALA will continue to respond to unexpected challenges and opportunities as they arise. When ALA members engage with policymakers, build relationships, and tell stories that demonstrate how Strong Libraries = Strong Communities, we can advance policies that make America's libraries even stronger.

Funding

[Equitable federal funding](#) for libraries and programs that libraries participate in is essential to ensuring that libraries can serve every community in America. ALA supports robust federal funding for libraries and library-eligible programs. We call on ALA members to join us in advocating on these key issues in 2019:

- Dedicated library programs: Continued funding for the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), the Department of Education's Innovative Approaches to Literacy program (IAL), the Library of Congress, the National Library of Medicine and the Federal Depository Library Program.
- Library-eligible programs: Continued and new federal program opportunities for which libraries are eligible recipients, such as programs under Title IV of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) and the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education (CTE) Act.

Equitable Access to High-Speed Internet

[Twenty-first century libraries rely on high-speed Internet](#) to deliver modern information services to their communities. ALA supports policies to increase the speed and availability of broadband and online services for library users. We call on ALA members to join us in advocating on these key issues in 2019:

- E-rate: Continued funding for the [E-rate](#) program, reduced complexity in applying for E-rate and increased support for applicants from the Universal Service Administrative Company.
- Tribal broadband: Expanded opportunities for tribal libraries to receive support for high-speed Internet, such as by expanded eligibility for E-rate.
- Net neutrality: Restoration of [net neutrality](#) protections.

Copyright

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 that protect library services. We call on ALA members to join us in advocating on these key issues in 2019:

- Maintaining the U.S. Copyright Office as an integral part of the Library of Congress: Preserving the Librarian of the Congress' authority to manage and oversee the Copyright Office.

- Copyright Office modernization: Modernization of the Library of Congress’ and U.S. Copyright Office’s information infrastructure and records systems.

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. We call on ALA members to join us in advocating on these key issues in 2019:

- 2020 Census: Ensuring adequate information, outreach, and support to libraries as they help their communities achieve a complete count in the [2020 Census](#).
- Federal Depository Library Program: Modernizing the [Federal Depository Library Program](#).
- Public access to research: Expanding public access to knowledge and data produced from publicly-funded research.

Emerging Policy Issues

Many policy issues affect the broad range of services that libraries provide to their communities. We call on ALA members to join us in exploring opportunities to support libraries through improved public policy related to these issues:

- Library privacy and cybersecurity: Support libraries’ [privacy and cybersecurity](#) needs in potential consumer privacy legislation or executive actions.
- STEM education and coding: Develop new opportunities for libraries to provide programming and services to populations underrepresented in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) fields.
- Workforce development: Recognize and support [workforce development](#) services in libraries, including in reauthorization of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA).
- Veterans: Explore the potential development of a national initiative to provide services to veterans through libraries.

Conclusion

The sustained engagement of ALA members and America’s library supporters is essential to advancing positive policy outcomes on these key issues. We call on ALA members to join the ALA Action Center at ala.org/takeaction, respond to action alerts and advocacy opportunities, build relationships with their elected officials and community leaders, and communicate the impact that libraries have in our communities.