

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.