



April 22, 2016

Dear Senator / Representative,

I am writing on behalf of the Florida Library Association and its 900+ members to thank you for your support for our nation's libraries and to ask for your continued support. Here are our issues:

Confirm the Confirmation of Carla Hayden as Librarian of Congress –

The Florida Library Association (FLA) commends and supports the nomination of Dr. Carla Hayden as our next Librarian of Congress. This is an inspired selection. FLA's vision is to "champion strong, indispensable, user-focused Florida libraries that exceed the expectations of the communities and constituents they serve"; the nomination of a librarian of Dr. Hayden's stature would support and promote this vision. Librarians are essential to enlightenment and growth in all communities, and this mission will be better served by having someone at the helm that possesses foresight, strength of character, unqualified experience and a deep love for libraries. That individual should be Dr. Carla Hayden. - *Gene Coppola, President, Florida Library Association*

Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) – Please support funding of the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) at \$186.6 million for 2017. Florida's LSTA 2016 allocation is \$8,259,897. Floridians benefit from LSTA funding through statewide services and grants to local libraries. For many communities and schools LSTA provides the only access to essential licensed electronic resources. LSTA, the only federal funding program exclusively for libraries, is administered nationally by the Institute for Museum and Library Services (IMLS) and in Florida by the State Library and Archives of Florida, Florida Department of State.

LSTA helps provide Floridians with:

- Florida Electronic Library's licensed information products
- Technology training
- Early reading programs
- Literacy programs
- Statewide youth program
- E-Government training
- Digitizing local cultural resources
- Resource sharing
- Continuing education & training for library staff
- Outreach to persons with special needs who would otherwise go unserved

Support School Libraries Through Innovative Approaches to Literacy (IAL) –

Please level fund IAL at \$27 million for 2017 for this proven effective program. IAL promotes student literacy from birth through high school by providing competitive grant

awards to school libraries and national not-for-profit organizations used for providing books and childhood literacy programs for children and families in high-need communities. IAL was authorized in the Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015 and is the only source of federal funding for school library materials targeting literacy.

Telecommunications – Support the FCC’s “net neutrality” rules and modernization of the Lifeline program to close the “homework gap” as well as legislation to ensure that all libraries have access to affordable bandwidth. We also support the E-Rate program that has committed \$161.7 million to Florida schools and libraries including \$4.1 million to libraries.

Access to Federally Funded Research – Pass “FASTR,” the Fair Access to Science and Technology Research Act (S.779 / H.R.1477), rapidly conference the FIOA Improvement and FIOA Oversight and Implementation Act (S.337 / H.R.653) and send the approved Report to the President for signature, take up and pass the Equal Access to Congressional Research Services Acts (S.2639 / H.R.4702) and assure continued public access to the unique information collections held by the National Technical Information Services (NTIS). Floridians benefit greatly from free access to federally funded research, as students, teachers, innovators, and citizens. Taxpayers already paid for the research, they should not pay again to read the results.

Privacy & Surveillance – Restore the Constitutional privacy rights of library users and all Americans lost to the overbroad, invasive and insufficiently “checked and balanced” USA Patriot Act, FISA Amendments, and Electronic Communications Privacy Acts (ECPA). Government access to your library borrowing and Internet use records should require a warrant. We urge immediate passage of the ECPA Amendments and Email Privacy Acts of 2015 (S. 356/H.R. 699) and reform of Section 702 of FISA.

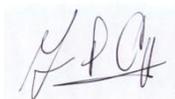
Copyright – Ratify the Marrakesh Treaty for the print disabled and reject unneeded changes to copyright law in any implementing legislation. This will provide 4 million print disabled Americans access to copyrighted material worldwide vital to their education, work, and quality of life. Respect the rights of authors and the framer’s intent that copyright “Promote the Progress of Science and the useful Arts”.

Support National Historical Publications and Records Commission Grants (NHPRC) – These grants benefit Florida’s archives and historical groups, enabling them to preserve and publish historical records that document American and Florida history, and make historical materials more accessible.

Library of Congress, Government Printing Office, & National Archives and Records Administration – We ask the President and Congress for full funding for these important programs.

Thank you for your service to the citizens of Florida and please keep these requests in mind as you work on these important issues.

Sincerely,



Gene Coppola
President
Florida Library Association