

ALA Councilor Report -- 6
May 30, 2008

Since the ALA Midwinter meeting, a number of letters were sent to various committees in support of libraries. A virtual library legislative day was held May 14 encouraging librarians to contact their legislators about the needs of libraries. Issues needing support may be found at: <http://www.capwiz.com/ala/home/>

Letter to House of Representatives
Re: Academic bill of rights to the Higher Education bill
February 7, 2009

Dear Representative,

On behalf of the more than 66,000 members of the American Library Association (ALA) we urge you to vote NO on any possible motion to recommit H.R. 4137 with instructions to include a so-called academic bill of rights (ABOR). While the title would seem to be consistent with the First Amendment Principles of the American Library Association, it would, in fact, impose extra-academic standards on academic institutions, directly interfering in course content, the classroom, the research process, and hiring and tenure decisions. Further, it would undermine academic and intellectual freedom, chill free speech, and/or otherwise interfere with the academic community's well-established norms and values of scholarship and educational excellence.

Letter was sent to Capitol Hill
Re: FISA Amendments Act
March 13, 2008

On behalf of the American Library Association (ALA) and the Association of Research Libraries (ARL) we write to express our support for the FISA Amendments Act of 2008 (the "Substitute"), and to thank you for introducing the amendment in the nature of a substitute to H.R. 3773.

We believe that the "Substitute" balances provisions between the House RESTORE Act, passed by the House last fall, and the Senate bill. The "Substitute" is a responsible, balanced compromise that enhances the government's ability to monitor foreign terrorists and spies, yet maintaining safeguards important to protecting the freedoms of law-abiding Americans

Letter sent to Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, and Related Agencies
March 20, 2008

On behalf of the Association of Research Libraries and the American Library Association, we write in support of a Fiscal Year 2009 appropriation for the National Agricultural Library (NAL) that will ensure that the Library can effectively serve the information needs of agricultural researchers, farmers, agriculture extension agents, educators, and the public throughout the country.

Letter to several subcommittees

April 1, 2008

On behalf of the American Library Association (ALA), the Association of Research Libraries (ARL), the Medical Library Association (MLA), and the Special Libraries Association (SLA), **we write in support of the FY 2009 appropriations request for the U.S. Government Printing Office (GPO)**. Collectively, these three associations represent thousands of individuals and institutions serving communities throughout the Nation, including the nearly 1,300 federal depository libraries located in nearly every congressional district.

Letter to House Subcommittee on Legislative Branch
April 4, 2008

This letter is submitted on behalf of the Association of Research Libraries (ARL), the American Library Association (ALA), and the National Humanities Alliance (NHA), in support of the fiscal year (FY) 2009 budget request of \$645.8 million for the Library of Congress. We are concerned about the impact of tight funding, and urge the Subcommittee to support full funding of this request as a necessary investment in one of the nation's greatest intellectual resources.

Shelby E. Harken
ALA Chapter Councilor

ALA is one of many organizations that signed on to this letter to Capitol Hill

May 16, 2008

Dear Elected Official:

The undersigned education, training, disability, public health, human services, medical research, child welfare organizations and labor unions representing the full range of stakeholders in the programs of the Departments of Education, Health and Human Services and Labor urge you to ensure that the final FY 2009 302b allocations for the House and Senate Labor, Health and Human Services, Education Appropriations Subcommittees reflects at least a \$15 billion increase above the FY 2008 level for these critically important programs. This amount would: (1) restore cuts of core program funding over the last four years, (2) more appropriately account for four years of inflation and population growth to maintain service levels and purchasing power; and (3) return these programs to the FY 2005 level, a high water mark for many.