

**ALA Committee on Legislation
Report to Council
2015 Annual Meeting San Francisco, CA**

**Vivian Wynn
Chair, ALA Committee on Legislation
July 30, 2015**

Committee on Legislation highlights of 2015:

1. COL Manual

COL is creating an Orientation Manual to be used as a tool for incoming members and others interested in the work of the Committee. Topics that can be found in the manual include: descriptions of the type of work that the Committee engages in, the relationship between COL and the Office of Government Relations, and the responsibilities of a COL member. The Manual is in its final stages and will be online by the end of the summer.

2. ALA Core Competencies

In response to a recommendation from the COL FDLF Task Force, the COL Government Information Subcommittee created, and COL approved, proposed changes and additions to the ALA Core Competencies. These changes address government information skills and the management of, and access to, government information. The recommendations will be sent to the Committee on Education to be considered during the next revision of the Competencies.

3. Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act

COL and the Washington Office have been working to prepare to educate the membership about the opportunities provided by this bill. The ALA, filing jointly with COSLA, submitted comments (<http://tinyurl.com/alawioa>) to the Secretaries of Labor and Education on June 15, 2015 in response to the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) for Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA). Our submission commended the government agencies noting that, for the most part, the proposed regulations were clear and would prove useful as libraries begin to work with state and local workforce investment boards, state and local government officials and one-stop centers to help implement WIOA. Libraries are ready to benefit as eligible training partners, and non-mandatory One-Stop partners delivering adult education and leadership training.

COL brings this action item to Council:

CD #42 Resolution Against Mass Surveillance of the American People was referred to COL and IFC during Council I. COL and IFC jointly request that the following resolution be substituted in lieu of CD #42.

The resolution is CD#20.3:

**RESOLUTION ON THE PASSAGE OF THE USA FREEDOM ACT
AND
SURVEILLANCE LAW REFORM**

RESOLVED, that the American Library Association, on behalf of its members:

1. commends the authors and primary supporters of the USA FREEDOM Act for their efforts, courage, and success in securing its passage;
2. recommits itself to the maximum possible restoration of civil liberties through statutory and other legal reforms; and
3. reaffirms its commitment to fostering maximum transparency in all workings of government.

Additional Information Items:

1. NTIS action taken with resolution and current status
During the COL meeting on Friday June 26 the situation concerning NTIS was reviewed. Following the Midwinter conference, the [Resolution on Preserving Public Access to Scientific and Technical Reports Available Through the National Technical Information Service](#) was shared with Congressional staff. When S. 787, the NTIS Elimination Act, was introduced in March the resolution was again shared with the appropriate Congressional committee staff. The most recent update that the Washington Office has received is that, after several briefings by the Department of Commerce, the agency that houses NTIS, the Commerce

I am ending my four years on the Committee on Legislation and my three years as COL chair. I want to thank the many members of COL over the years for their hard work and commitment to this essential part of our Association. I would also like to thank all of the WO staff for their help and hard work, in particular Lynne Bradley and Jessica McGilvray and, of course, WO Director Emily Sheketoff.

Committee on Legislation:

Vivian R. Wynn Chair
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Patty Saidenberg
Maureen Sullivan
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Denise Zielinski
Michelle Dunaway Intern
Amelia Kallaher Intern

Government Information

The Government Information Subcommittee (GIS) held two meetings during ALA Annual 2015. The first meeting was held jointly with the Government Documents Roundtable Committee. Participants heard from the Government Publishing Office (GPO) regarding its

Telecommunications:

On Saturday, the COL Telecommunications Committee met to review and discuss priority issues for the library community. Highlights included an update on E-rate, network neutrality, Lifeline, unlicensed spectrum, the 21st Century Communications Act, and the Digital Learning Equity Act. The C

Six Month Report on ALA Washington Office Activities

Sen. Durbin, FCC Leaders Address ALA Midwinter Meeting

The ALA Washington Office organized a number of well-attended sessions at the 2015 ALA Midwinter Meeting. Assistant Senate Minority Leader Senator Richard Durbin (D-IL) discussed the implications of the November mid-term Congressional elections for America, libraries and library advocacy during the Washington Update session. Roger Goldblatt, associate bureau chief of the Federal Communica

ALA Actively Pushes for Congress to Include School Library/Librarian Language in ESEA

In late January, U.S. Senator Jack Reed (D-RI) joined Senate Appropriations Committee Chairman Thad Cochran (R-MS) in introducing the SKILLS Act (S.312). The bipartisan SKILLS Act would amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) by requiring state and

literacy skills, master the knowledge and skills in the challenging academic content standards adopted by the state, and graduate from high school ready for college and careers. By definition, an effective school library program would include an adequately resourced school library staffed by a state-certified librarian. ALA submitted formal comments to the U.S. Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) Chairman Sen. Lamar Alexander and Ranking Member Sen. Patty Murray on their Discussion Draft of legislation to reauthorize the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. ALA asked librarians via legislative alerts to contact their Senators to ask that the SKILLS Act be integrated into the seminal version of the ESEA reauthorization bill written by Chairman Alexander and Sen. Murray, which would become the basis for the reauthorization of ESEA. If the SKILLS Act is included in such a bill, Senate leadership backs the proposal and would likely oppose any effort to strip it from the bill by later amendment.

In March, OGR conceived and orchestrated two intensive and distinct ad hoc coalition efforts to support dedicated school library funding in the reauthorization of ESEA. The first letter went to key Democratic Members of the Senate HELP Committee. ALA and AASL were joined on the first letter by eleven other leading national non-profit organizations, including the: NEA, AFT, National Superintendents Roundtable, National Alliance of Black School Educators and the National Literacy Council.

The [second letter \(pdf\)](#) was backed by more than 20 education businesses, associations and media groups, including: Scholastic Inc., EBSCO Information Services and the Association of American Publishers, Baker & Taylor, OverDrive, Booklist Publications, Bound to Stay Bound Books, DEMCO Inc. and the Junior Library Guild. Both letters call on the U.S. Congress to incorporate the SKILLS Act in ESEA reauthorization, which would expand federal investment in school libraries in order to offer students the tools they need to develop critical thinking, digital, and research skills. ALA transmitted the letters, targeted appropriately, to U.S. Senate HELP Committee Chairman Sen. Lamar Alexander (R-TN) and HELP Committee Ranking Member Patty Murray (D-WA).

Senate HELP Committee Passes Every Child Achieves Act (ECAA), including school libraries

The Committee marked up a reauthorization for the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, including much of the school library improvements ALA requested, but not all.

The bill did include many opportunities for the school libraries and librarians to be specifically included, for instance, it authorizes states to use funds to support the instructional services provided by school librarians. And Local Education Agencies (LEA) is authorized to use funds to support the instructional services provided by school librarians.

For the purposes of Teaching of Traditional American History, LEAs are required to carry out grant activities in partnership with an institution of higher education; a

nonprof

supporting students who are children with disabilities and English learners, other school leaders, library and media personnel, technology officers, and staff responsible for assessments and data.

LEAs must use at least 50% of their funds to carry out professional development in digital learning for teachers, principals, other school leaders, paraprofessionals, library and media personnel, specialized instructional support personnel, technology coordinators, and administrators in the use of technology to support student learning. Each LEA must submit a report to the SEA and each SEA must submit a report to the Secretary of Education that must include the professional learning activities funded under the grant, including types of activities and entities involved in providing such professional learning to classroom teachers and other staff, such as school librarians.

And a section authorizes a new Literacy and Arts Education program that authorizes eligible entities to use funds to promote literacy programs that support the development of literacy skills in low-income communities, including developing and enhancing effective school library programs, which may include providing professional development for school librarians, books, and up-to-date materials to low-income

on February 27, 2015. [ALA joined with nine other organizations to submit testimony](#) proposing an amendment to the [House FOIA Reform bill](#) that would allow all FOIA processors access to all electronic records systems for the processing of Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests. The Freedom of Information Act is a law that gives the public the right to access information held by the federal government.

Library Copyright Alliance Applauds Introduction of the Breaking Down Barriers to Innovation Act

In April, the Library Copyright Alliance applauded the introduction of the Breaking Down Barriers to Innovation Act of 2015 in the U.S. Senate and U.S. House of Representatives. The bill would address serious problems with the rulemaking process under the Digital Millennium Copyright Act. It also would correct deficiencies in several of the existing exceptions to the DMCA. Under current law, the DMCA could be understood to prohibit the circumvention of -infringing purposes, including the fair use of copyrighted material otherwise permitted by law.

Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act (WIOA)

The Washington Office created a Task Force of state library agency staff and public librarians