

FEDERAL LEGISLATION AND POLICY UPDATES

LIBRARFUNDING

Success for Library Funding in FY 2023 Appropriations

The Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 Congressional appropriations cycle concluded hours before expiration of the

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For Libraries and Digital Initiatives Appropriations bill include:

Direct Library Funding:

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- x Innovative Approaches to Literacy (Dept. of Education) +\$1 million
- Federal Library and Library-Eligible Funding (selected activities)
- x Education Title IV +\$100 million
- x Education Title II for professional development +\$20 million
- x Comprehensive Literacy State Grants +\$2 million
- x National Library of Medicine +\$18 million
- x Library of Congress +\$30 million
- x National Endowment for the Arts +\$23.6 million
- x National Endowment for the Humanities +\$20.7 million

FY 2023 appropriations law voices support for library facilities

For fiscal year 2023, ALA included a new funding request for Congress to allocate at least \$20 million for a new national program for improving library facilities, inspired by the Build America's Libraries Act (S. 127/H.R. 1581). On June 30, the House Appropriations committee approved its FY23 bills, which did not include the requested funding, but included language expressing concern about the condition of library facilities and supporting efforts to assess the condition of library facilities. On July 28, the Senate Appropriations Committee released draft FY23 bills that did include the requested funding for library facilities. On October 27, more than 50 Representatives [signed a letter, which was supported by ALA](#), urging the House to agree to the Senate funding for library facilities. On December 20, Congress passed and on December 29 President Biden signed, the final FY23 appropriations law, which did not include the requested funding for library facilities, but did include the language supporting efforts to assess the condition of library facilities.

NEW SUPPORT FOR LIBRARIES

ALA, AASL lead support for Right to Read Act

prospects for digital book advocacy at a DPLA webinar and ALA Chapter Exchange webinar. An ALA delegation met with representatives from a number of organizations in the publishing ecosystem in New York City this fall, reaffirming relationships. For many, this was the first in-person interaction in several years because of the pandemic.

DIGITAL INCLUSION

ALA releases digital equity report

ALA's new digital equity report, [released](#) in October, outlines how policymakers can scale library successes to advance digital equity. Authored by PBA consultant Michelle Frisque, [Leveraging Libraries to Advance Digital Equity](#), the report included examples and lessons learned from conversations at ALA's June 2022 Broadband Convening, supported by the Mellon Foundation. The report was highlighted in [GovTech](#) magazine as well as in [Benton Institute](#) h

rate). Companion legislation was [introduced in the House](#) in November by Representative Teresa Leger Fernández. Among other things, the Tribal Connect Act builds

PPA has continued to advocate for federal resources to improve the sustainability of library facilities. On June 2, ALA joined a coalition letter Congressional leaders in support of legislative proposals to improve the energy efficiency of buildings. On December 22, ALA submitted comments to the Energy Department regarding energy efficiency funding for nonprofit buildings.

ALA voices concern about overbroad “harmful to minors” legislation

On November 28, ALA signed a coalition letter in opposition to the Kids Online Safety Act (S. 3663). As written, the bill would have required online platforms to restrict minors’ access to content deemed “harmful to minors,” a standard that was vaguely and broadly written and which raised concerns that it could include, for instance, LGBTQ information. The bill’s rules would have applied to some library online services, including online content licensed from commercial vendors. Following outreach by PPA, a revised version of the legislation was released which would have clarified the bill’s standards and excluded most library services from its applicability. The bill did not advance prior to the end of the 117 Congress and therefore died with the end of that Congress.

Congressmembers voice concern about proliferation of book bans

In late 2022, Members of Congress introduced two resolutions expressing concern about the increasing efforts to ban books around the United States. On September 22, during Banned Books Week, Rep. Jamie Raskin (MD) and cosponsors introduced H.Res. 1392, “Recognizing ‘Banned Books Week’ and the -3.5 (o EMC /P A2t th1.228 0 Td [(a)-3.3 (n)-0.7 (d)-0.7 (c)6 (o)-9 (n27)]TJ 0 Tw 1.761LuA92]TJ 0 Tc/)]TJ

- September 30 Comments of the American Library Association related to development of the

Memorial Library System also made remarks about the importance of libraries in the nation's community-driven public health approach to fighting COVID.

The event took place at the Hyattsville Branch Library, weeks after the U.S. Food and Drug Administration authorized a COVID vaccine for children six months through 5 years of age. The event was centered on a theme of health equity and diverse family audience accessibility, with Spanish language and American Sign Language translation throughout the storytime and media conference immediately following. A dance party for children featured Latin style dance and Spanish language sing along. The event resulted in media coverage in several news outlets, including [The Washington Post](#), [NBC4 Washington](#), [Univision](#), and [El Tiempo Latino](#).

ALA sends letter of concern to FBI regarding threats of violence in libraries

On September 27, the ALA executive board transmitted a letter to the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) expressing concerns about the threats directed to public and school libraries and library workers.

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first time to meet (virtually) PPA staff, learn about their roles as a COL member, and receive updates on the many policy issues that COL members will encounter.

COL fall retreat returns to in-person format

The Committee on Legislation held its annual ~~two~~ Fall Retreat, the first in-person retreat since 2019. The retreat provided COL members an opportunity to hear from outside ALA speakers and PPA staff on a wide range of important policy activities, as well as providing opportunities for members to provide advice to PPA staff and socialize. ALA President Leesa Lozada attended a portion of the retreat to welcome members and thank them for their service.

Outside speakers included John Windhausen (leading a discussion on telecom and broadband), Elyse Wasch (recap and implications of recent federal elections), Senator Jack Reed staffer Moira Lenehan (Right to Read Act), and Jonathan Band (Copyright and eBooks). Members also received PPA updates on office changes, communication, messaging and grassroots tools, Committee on Library Advocacy (COLA) updates and outreach to newly elected members of Congress.

COL members continued discussion of the 2023 COL Federal Legislative and Public Policy Agenda and provided final approval. The agenda is focused on four key areas: Funding; Digital Inclusion and Skills; Copyright, Licensing and Competition; and Government Information and Services.

PPA staff speaking engagements included:

July

- x Megan Janid spoke at an Iran Public Libraries Foundation webinar ["The Role of Public Libraries in Small Businesses"](#)