

ALA American Library Association

RESOLUTION ON FY96 FUNDING FOR LIBRARY PROGRAMS

WHEREAS, The Senate has not voted on H.R. 2127, the FY96 Labor, Health and Human Services and Education Appropriations bill, which continues appropriations for currently funded library programs; therefore the bill has not been approved for final passage by the House of Representatives and Senate or signed into law; and

WHEREAS, The Library Services and Construction Act has stimulated public library innovation, improved services and facilities, literacy, interlibrary cooperation, and resource sharing throughout its history; and

WHEREAS, The Higher Education Act II-B library programs have provided scholarships enabling the library profession to fill unmet needs for services in many areas and encouraged development of research, strengthening of collections, resource sharing and access to library materials; and

WHEREAS, Several Continuing Resolutions have been passed since the beginning of the fiscal year with distribution of funds limited to lower levels passed by the House; and

WHEREAS, With reduced and uncertain funding status, state library agencies and libraries in every state are severely affected and struggling to deal with cutbacks in library services and possible curtailment of staff positions; and

WHEREAS, Library school students pursuing Masters and Doctoral degrees face the prospect of loss of funding and disruption of their degree completion; and academic libraries are unable to go forward with programs and research projects; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the American Library Association urge the Senate to pass H.R. 2127 and that Congress support the higher Senate funding levels for library programs in conference and through final passage of the legislation.

Adopted by the Council of the
American Library Association
San Antonio, Texas
January 14, 1996
(Council Document 20)