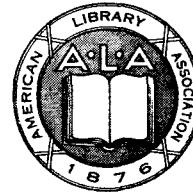


AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

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PETITION TO CONGRESS TO HELP EDUCATION AND LIBRARY PROGRAMS

The Bureau of the Budget has made the most damaging recommendation of the past decade relating to support for education and libraries in America. The total allotted for all purposes for fiscal year 1970 to the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare is \$3.2 billion, or about 1-1/2 percent of the total federal budget. This is a decrease of about 25 percent from the preceding year. Libraries, however, have suffered to a much greater extent -- in fact, a truly appalling reduction of 80 percent, from \$235 million to \$46 million. This Budget Bureau proposal, if sustained by Congress, would mean that the federal support for libraries in the coming year would amount to only 1/50 of one percent of the total federal budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1969.

Man's ability to develop his talents to full potential and to contribute to the continued progress of society depends upon his opportunity to fulfill his educational needs. In turn, education depends upon information which libraries provide. The rapidly accumulating mass of information available is straining the resources and the ability of libraries everywhere to cope with its organization and dissemination. To throttle libraries in this fashion is to diminish greatly the opportunity for education itself to function effectively. Everyone has a stake in this: the businessman, the technician, the college student, the parents of school children; and all responsible citizens concerned for the future quality of American life.

THEREFORE, We, the members of the American Library Association, petition the Congress of the United States to appropriate the full amount of funds authorized for federal library and other educational programs, so that urgently needed education and information services for all our people can be continued and expanded to meet increasing needs. We urge that full funding of these programs, so vital to the development of our human resources, be of the highest priority.

Adopted by the Council of the
American Library Association
at the 88th Annual Conference,
Atlantic City, New Jersey,
June 24, 1969

Transmitted by
David H. Clift
Executive Director