

ALA American Library Association

May 13, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives

Re: HEROES Act – Relief for America’s Libraries

Dear Speaker Pelosi:

On behalf of America’s libraries, I write to express our appreciation for your leadership in the response to COVID-19. However, we fear that the latest House proposal will not be enough to prevent additional cuts to library jobs and services that are crucial to the recovery ahead.

Libraries employ nearly 370,000 American workers and purchase more than \$5 billion in books and infrastructure annually. Across the country, libraries are keeping students connected and enabling displaced workers to search for jobs and learn new career skills.

We are grateful that the Health and Economic Recovery Omnibus Emergency Solutions Act includes fiscal stabilization for state, local, territorial, and tribal governments, schools, and colleges. Like those institutions, libraries have experienced significant revenue losses, resulting in thousands of furloughs and layoffs to date. Libraries also need dedicated fiscal stabilization.

In addition, we appreciate the bill’s provisions to expand internet connectivity to library patrons. Fiscal stabilization is also needed to preserve libraries’ capacity to implement such programs.

Libraries need far more than the \$5 million allocated in the HEROES Act to maintain critical community services. We echo more than 100 bipartisan Members of Congress and more than 30 national organizations in requesting at least \$2 billion for libraries. Thank you for your leadership and for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Kathi Kromer
Associate Executive Director, Public Policy and Advocacy
American Library Association

The American Library Association (“ALA”) is the foremost national organization providing resources to inspire library and information professionals to transform their communities through essential programs and services. For more than 140 years, the ALA has been the trusted voice for academic, public, school, government and special libraries, advocating for the profession and the library's role in enhancing learning and ensuring access to information for all.