

For Immediate Release
February 1993

From: Pamela Goodes
Linda Wallace
312-280-5043, 5042

AASL & YALSA endorse Elementary and Secondary School Library Media Act

Proposed federal legislation to provide assistance for school library resources has received unanimous endorsement from the American Association of School Librarians (AASL) and the Young Adult Library Services Association (YALSA), divisions of the American Library Association (ALA). The Elementary and Secondary School Library Media Act was endorsed by the AASL and YALSA Boards of Directors during the American Library Association (ALA) Midwinter Meeting in Denver.

The Act, which will be reintroduced during the 103rd Congress, would establish a Division of Elementary and Secondary School Library Media Services in the U.S. Department of Education. The division would be responsible for administering three grant programs to aid school library media centers in library material purchases, collaborative curriculum design and use of technology in the curriculum.

It was introduced in the Senate on October 2, 1992, by Paul Sarbanes (D-Md.) and Paul Simon (D-Ill.) and in the House on October 5, 1992, by Jack Reid, (D-R.I.). The measure will be reintroduced by Tom Petri (R-Wis.).

The AASL and YALSA Boards are urging school and public librarians to voice their support for the proposed legislation by writing to their local Congressional representatives.

AASL & YALSA endorse Elementary and Secondary School Library Media Act
-- add one

Letters of support should include information such as statistics on the funding crisis facing school library media programs, examples of out-of-date materials in local collections and illustrations of how school library media programs can help students achieve.

A recent study by The Library Research Service at the Colorado Department of Education links successful library media programs to higher levels of student achievement. The two-year study, which uses 1989 data from 221 Colorado public schools, concludes that access to the library media center is the single best predictor of student achievement. It also draws a correlation between library media expenditures and student achievement.

For more information about the Colorado study, contact the State Library & Adult Education Office, Colorado Department of Education, 303-886-6737.

Copies of the Elementary and Secondary School Library Media Act are available from: American Association of School Librarians, American Library Association, 50 E. Huron St., Chicago, IL 60611. Telephone: 800-545-2433, ext. 4386.