

# American Library Association

## Washington Office Newsline

ALAWON  
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### ***Celebrate Sunshine Week, Contact Your Members of Congress in Support of Open Government***

Sunshine Week is a national initiative to open a dialogue on the importance of open government and freedom of information. The ALA has a long-standing commitment to open public access to information created by our government in order to ensure accountability and informed public participation.

- To learn more about Sunshine Week and National Freedom of Information Act Day, please see ALA's [Sunshine Week website](#) and [Freedom of Information Day site](#).

In the spirit of Sunshine Week, two important bills are coming to the House floor. Please show your support by:

- Contacting your representative by phone or fax: [U.S. House of Representatives](#).
- If your representative is a sponsor, thank them. If not, ask them to sign on as co-sponsor, or at the very least, vote for the bill when it comes to the Floor.
- Tell them why you support this legislation: open government increases accountability and informed civic participation which is fundamental to a healthy democracy; the legislation represents an important step towards open government and away from policies that came about over the past few years to restrain the release of government records.
  - See [ALA's Resolution concerning Government Information and Security](#) (PDF), Adopted January 2002.

Legislation includes:

1. The Freedom of Information Act Amendments of 2007 (H.R. 1309), among many reforms, will help reduce backlogs and delays in responding to FOIA requests and would reverse the White House's "policy of nondisclosure" outlined in a 2001 memo by former Attorney General John Ashcroft, which have undermined the FOIA.

#### **Other News:**

[Statement from ALA President Leslie Burger on Justice Dept. Investigation into FBI. NSLs](#)

[ALA president disappointed in Sports Illustrated denying swimsuit issue to some subscribers](#)

ALAWON Editor:  
Andy Bridges

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Kathy Mitchell, Carrie Russell

Sponsor Rep. Wm. Lacy Clay (MO-1)  
co-sponsors (2):

Rep. Todd R. Platts (PA-19)      Rep. Harry A. Waxman (CA-30)

2. Presidential Records Act Amendments of 2007 (H.R. 1255) will amend the Presidential Records Act and revoke one of President's Bush's executive orders and other restrictions on access imposed in 2001.

Sponsor Rep. Harry A. Waxman (CA-30)  
co-sponsors (14):

Rep. Gary L. Ackerman (NY-5)	Rep. Ron Paul (TX-14)
Rep. Dan Burton (IN-5)	Rep. Todd Russell Platts (PA-19)
Rep. Wm. Lacy Clay (MO-1)	Rep. Edolphus Towns (NY-10)
Rep. Elijah Cummings (MD-7)	Rep. Mark Udall (CO-2)
Rep. Bob Filner (CA-51)	Rep. Chris Van Hollen (MD-8)
Rep. Raul M. Grijalva (AZ-7)	Rep. Diane E. Watson (CA-33)
Rep. Carolyn B. Maloney (NY-14)	Rep. John A. Yarmuth (KY-3)



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- See what library legislation is hot
- Send a letter or fax to Congress

U.S. Capitol switchboard 202-225-3121