

American Library Association

Washington Office Newsline

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Contact Your Senators-- Support Federal Funding for Libraries

Please contact your Senators immediately and ask them to sign the "[Dear Colleague](#)" letter (PDF) being circulated by Sens. Jack Reed (D-RI) and Susan Collins (R-ME) in support of funding for the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) and the Improving Literacy Through School Libraries Program. The deadline for signing this letter is **tomorrow, April 10.**

LSTA and Improving Literacy Through School Libraries are two of the most important federal programs for libraries today. The letter is addressed to the Senate Labor, Health and Human Services and Education Appropriation Subcommittee and requests that the Senate include President Bush's request of \$226.18 million for LSTA and \$100 million for the Improving Literacy Through School Libraries program for FY 2008.

When you contact your Senators, you must ask them to call Caitlin with Senator Reed or Seth with Senator Collins, in order to co-sign the letter. DO NOT CALL Caitlin or Seth directly.

Funding is extremely tight this year. Programs that don't have a vocal support network are in danger of being cut. With an April 10 deadline for signatures, it is critical that ALA members their Senators immediately and encourage them to sign these letters.

The following Senators have already signed the letter: Reed, Collins, Akaka, Cantwell, Kerry, Baucus, Rockefeller, Kohl, Stabenow, Snowe, Menendez, Leahy, Schumer, Durbin, Clinton, Boxer, Bayh, Feingold, and Kennedy.

If your Senator is not on the letter, it is critical that you contact them immediately. If you are Senator has signed the letter, please call to thank them for supporting libraries.

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