

# American Library Association

## Washington Office Newsline

ALAWON  
Volume 16, Number 077  
July 9, 2007

### ***Urge Congress to Fully Fund the National Library Service***

The National Library Service (NLS), a division of the Library of Congress, is in the process of switching the talking books format and associated playback equipment from four-track cassette tapes to digital (USB) flash memory cartridges. NLS estimates the cost of transition is \$76.4 million, over a four-year period (\$19.1 million in each of the next four years).

In the House of Representatives, the Legislative Branch Subcommittee only recommended \$7.5 million for the upcoming fiscal year. The Appropriations Committee met and amended the Subcommittee bill to give NLS \$12.5 million of the \$19.1 million. However, this money came out of the Government Printing Office's budget.

Rep. Kingston offered an amendment that would have provided the entire \$19.1 million needed for the project and the money would have come from the Architect of the Capitol. The Senate Appropriations Committee recommended \$12.5 million for the program.

This is **not** sufficient funding for NLS to update the equipment and it jeopardizes library service to the more than 750,000 people who rely on NLS for access to reading material. Contact your Members of Congress and urge them to provide the \$19.1 million requested by NLS.



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