

ALA American Library Association

April 16, 2015

The Honorable Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senate
530 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Susan Collins
United States Senate
413 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Bob Casey
United States Senate
393 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Elizabeth Warren
United States Senate
317 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

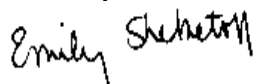
Dear Senators Whitehouse, Casey, Collins and Warren:

On behalf of the American Library Association (ALA), I am writing to thank you for your support of the amendment that will promote literacy programs in low-income communities. We are grateful for your efforts to develop and enhance effective school library programs during the mark-up of the Every Child Achieves Act.

ALA is pleased at this recognition of the vital role that an effective school library program can play in a child's life. Not only will this amendment ensure that school libraries are able to apply for funds to enhance their collections with up-to-date materials, but it will help to ensure that school librarians are better able to participate in professional development activities. The library community looks forward to helping you in your pursuit of improving our nation's student learning environments.

In addition, we are heartened by the Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions' work to update this critical legislation and are optimistic that improvements such as these to ESEA will help ensure that all students experience sufficient preparation for university and the workforce.

Sincerely,



Emily Sheketoff, Executive Director
American Library Association Washington Office