

ALA American Library Association

RESOLUTION ON HIGHER EDUCATION ACT REAUTHORIZATION

- WHEREAS,** The American Library Association has long supported the Higher Education Act; and
- WHEREAS,** The Association for College and Research Libraries has endorsed the sixteen recommendations regarding the reauthorization of the Higher Education Act made to the United States Congress by a coalition of twenty-one higher education organizations on March 19, 1997; and
- WHEREAS,** The Higher Education Act expires in 1997; and
- WHEREAS,** Academic and research libraries are essential to the attainment of excellence in education in an increasingly complex, technical and pluralistic society, and essential to the competitive position of the United States in the global economy, and serve as electronic doorways to the world of information; and
- WHEREAS,** These sixteen recommendations have merit and contribute greatly to higher education and include the following:
- 1) Maintain and strengthen the focus on financially needy and moderate income students;
 - 2) Strengthen campus-based programs so that, together with Pell Grants, they will help reduce student borrowing;
 - 3) Increase investment in early intervention and support services programs, such as TRIO, that help open the doors of college to low-income first-generation college students;
 - 4) Make borrowing in the federal student loan program less expensive for students;
 - 5) Retain both the Ford Direct Student Loan Program and the FFELP and create a level playing field of beneficial student terms and conditions of both programs;
 - 6) Reassess the process by which schools become and remain eligible to participate in the student aid programs and seek procedures that are more effective, efficient, and less intrusive than those currently in place;
 - 7) Eliminate statutory provisions that have led to the development of regulations that are excessive and costly to implement, but that contribute little or nothing to net Title IV accountability;

- 8) Enhance accountability through modernization of student aid processing;
- 9) Explore new ways to expand federal/state partnerships in support of need-based student aid;
- 10) Congress should analyze current federal policies with respect to distance education and determine whether modifications are needed to address the enormous opportunities that increasingly are available to students in this area;
- 11) Continue and strengthen Title III of HEA to complement the investment the federal government makes in student aid;
- 12) Reauthorize the Urban Community Service program in Title XI of the HEA with minor changes;
- 13) The Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education (FIPSE) plays an important role in encouraging innovation in postsecondary education and should be continued;
- 14) Federal support for international education is increasingly important and necessary;
- 15) Maintain a strong and visible role in financing graduate education;
- 16) Replace the existing programs in Title V of the HEA with a streamlined new authority narrowly focused on the initial preparation of teachers; and

WHEREAS,

Three of the above recommendations: strengthening campus based programs and student work study programs, continuing the fund for the FIPSE, and maintaining International Education programs, are of particular concern to ACRL; and

WHEREAS,

Other programs included in the Higher Education Act benefit from and contribute to strong library programs and services and the overall well being of higher education; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED,

That the Higher Education Act be reauthorized with such improvements and accommodations as are required to meet urgent national needs and to improve the efficient working of the Act; and, be it further

RESOLVED,

That the American Library Association communicate its support to the appropriate Congressional committees to achieve timely and effective reauthorization of the Higher Education Act.

Adopted by the Council of the
American Library Association
San Francisco, CA
July 2, 1997
(Council Document 20.6)