

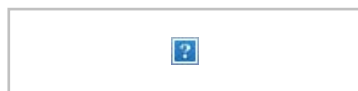
# American Library Association

## Washington Office Newsline

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### **Senate Passes Bill Establishing Searchable Government Spending Database**

On Thursday, September 7, the U.S. Senate passed S. 2590, the *Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006* by voice vote. Sponsored by Senators Tom Coburn (R-OK) and Barack Obama (D-IL), S. 2590 would establish a web site containing a massive, searchable database tracking federal government spending. The free database would go online by January 1, 2008, and would include information on the recipients of government grants, loans, and contracts, starting with the fiscal 2007 budget cycle. Co-sponsored by Democrats and Republicans alike and supported by a number of fiscal watchdog and open government groups, S. 2590 is designed to provide more accountability and transparency to American taxpayers. However, the new database will not include classified information or budget figures. On Friday, the leaders of the House of Representatives agreed to consider S. 2590 instead of their own measure, H.R. 5060, because the House's version does not include the ability to search contracts. S. 2590 is scheduled to be considered by the House tomorrow under suspension of the rules inasmuch as it is considered a non-controversial bill. The Washington Office will keep you informed of its outcome in the House.



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ALAWON Editor:  
Andy Bridges

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**ALA Washington Office**  
Emily Sheketoff; Executive Director  
1615 New Hampshire Ave NW, First Floor  
Washington, D.C. 20009  
202.628.8410 (V)  
202.628.8419 (F)

**Office of Government Relations**  
Lynne Bradley, Director;  
Melanie Anderson, Don Essex, Erin Haggerty, and Miriam Nisbet

**Office for Information Technology Policy**  
Rick Weingarten, Director;  
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