September 30, 1996

To: Pamela Walker

From: Barbara Weaver

Subject: Some words you might want to cul from for the press release on the Museum and Library Services Act of 1996

I am delighted to learn of the passage of the Museum and Library Services Act of 1996. It is a tribute to the hard work and determination of the library community, as well as to the long-standing commitment of supporters like Senator Pell, that this landmark legislation has reached fruition.

The Museum and Library Services Act of 1996 builds on the demonstrated success of the Library Services and Construction Act, which for more than 30 years helped to make quality library service available to people all over the United States. With the passage of this new Act, the Federal government recognizes and encourages the progress libraries have made in bringing information directly to the people in electronic format as well as in more traditional ways. The new Act emphasizes the role of library programs as major partners in the cultural and intellectual life of the country. We welcome this new partnership with museums and other cultural agencies as we move toward universal access to information through libraries.

Here in Rhode Island, we are pleased with the flexibility of the new Act, which will allow us to use the funds to make our statewide library network even more effective, and will also allow us to focus on the needs of children, poor people and others needing special attention. We will also be able to help education and social service agencies to meet their clients' information needs. We look forward to working closely with our museum colleagues in a new and rewarding partnership.

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Pam, please take whatever words you might find useful and rearrange them as you would like. Thanks again so much for all your help and support. And please extend our heartfelt thanks and congratulations to Senator Pell for all his efforts on behalf of libraries over the years.
Museums are visual libraries. In communities across the nation, museums and libraries provide innovative and exciting educational opportunities to individuals of all ages. It is my hope that by expanding this partnership at the national level, museum and library services will be more widely available and better able to meet the needs of 21st century, with the goals of introducing more people to the magic of reading, the joys of learning, and the treasures that are part of our cultural heritage.