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Library Services and Construction Act: Joint Hearing (April 11, 1989): Correspondence 01

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March 13, 1989

The Honorable Claiborne Pell, Chairman  
Senate Labor and Human Resources Committee  
Russell Building, Room SR-335  
1st and C Streets, NE  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Literacy Volunteers of America, Inc. (LVA) does not support the passage of the Library Improvement Act but supports the reauthorization of the current Library Services and Construction Act. Many literacy programs have begun in libraries across the country and LVA has found that Title VI of the LSCA (Library Literacy Programs) has made possible the organization, continuation, and expansion of many of our programs. The amount of federal money budgeted for adult literacy is relatively small, and eliminating LSCA’s Title VI will reduce this amount even further, a consequence that we do not wish to see and feel certain that the new administration, with its stress on education, would not wish to see.

We offer below a few examples to illustrate how crucial LSCA’s Title VI has been to volunteer programs. The following projects were funded under Title VI:

In Browning, MT, The Blackfeet Library Literacy program, operated through the Blackfeet Community College Library, trains tutors, matches them with illiterate adults from the Blackfeet Tribe, provides low-level reading materials for new readers, and coordinates literacy activities reservation wide.

In Coventry, RI, LSCA funds provide materials and equipment to support and expand Coventry Public Library’s ongoing LVA program, which was started in 1980 under an LSCA grant.

In Huntington Beach, CA, LSCA funds have made possible the redesigning, expanding, and enhancing of LVA-Huntington Valley, and incorporating it into a permanent library-based program.

The LSCA-funded Queens Borough Public Library literacy program in Jamaica, NY, achieved honor in 1988 when student Annie Goolabia was chosen LVA Student of the Year and Borough President Claire Shulman proclaimed “Annie Goolabia Day,” with coverage from all major New York City media.

These few examples, chosen from among 224 equally worthy recipients of FY 1988 Title VI grants, will indicate why Literacy Volunteers of America offers its full and urgent support for the reauthorization of LSCA.

Thank you for your attention to this vital issue.

Sincerely,

Arthur Bongiovanni, Chairman

AB/db