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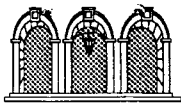
Dale Thompson

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Dale Thompson
Director

May 31, 1994
DT/014-94

The Honorable Claiborne Pell
SR 335 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510-3901

Dear Senator Pell:

I am writing to request that you support the reauthorization of the critically needed funds for Library Literacy, LSCA Title VI grants. I am asking you to advocate against the elimination of LSCA Title VI funds when the debate commences on this issue this summer or early fall.

As you well know, the New England region, and the State of Rhode Island in particular, has experienced severe economic setbacks over the past five years. At the same time, record numbers of new immigrants and refugees have settled in our area. There are currently not enough adult education programs available to serve the Rhode Island residents who wish to strengthen their literacy and/or English language skills. Thousands of people hope to secure employment, however, they lack adequate language and literacy skills to do so.

The literacy programs and services offered through the public libraries nationwide have provided adults (the majority of whom are on waiting lists - hoping to enroll in local adult education and English as a second language programs) with a place to begin their education and training. The library programs also introduce adult new readers to the many resources available to them, and their family members, free of charge at their local libraries and within their communities as a whole.

This is why the LSCA Title VI - Library Literacy pool is so very important. It must be reauthorized so that the hundreds of thousands of people across the nation seeking first step literacy training and referral assistance can continue to be served. This grant pool is certainly one of the most cost effective programs which promotes family education, family literacy and community involvement.

I am enclosing a fact sheet on the extent of growth and interest in the Providence Public Library's programs over the past five years. Since 1991, PPL's two LSCA Title VI projects have offered programs at six branch library locations and have served well over 700 adults and 650 children. The majority of participants have gone on to enroll in more intensive language training programs, many have gained employment and others have passed their citizenship exams. The LSCA grant program made these important outreach services to minority families possible.

The LSCA Title VI grant pool has certainly produced many long range benefits for our region, and ultimately for our country over the past decade. I hope that there is some way that the LSCA Title VI grant pool can be restored for FY '95 and that it will be reauthorized as a funding source in the future.

I thank you for your time and attention given to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dale Thompson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial "D".

Dale Thompson
Director

DT/jc

Providence Public Library

LITERACY PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

1988-1993

Year	ABC Materials avg. monthly circulation	Literacy Referrals	FAMILY LITERACY PROGRAM		FAMILY WRITING CENTER	BOTH PROGRAMS
			Total Program Participants	Family Literacy Day - # in attendance	Total Program Participants (1992-93 pilot)	Number of Community Volunteers
1988-89	8	6				
1989-90	70	70	51 (26 adults, 25 preschool children)			6
1990-91	188	258	141 (87 adults, 54 preschool children)	225		18
1991-92	265	290	363 (247 adults, 116 preschool children)	215		26
1992-93	478	366	414 (259 adults, 155 children)	210	100 (42 adults, 32 children, 26 tutors & students)	50
totals:		990	969	650	100	100