

2016

## Institute of Museum and Library Services Act (1996): Speech 01

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Statement of Senator Claiborne Pell (D,RI)

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Mr. President, I send an amendment to the desk on behalf of Senator Jeffords and myself, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The House of Representatives recently approved the Careers Act, which contains extensive provisions regarding library services. This is the companion bill to the legislation we are now considering, and the bill the House will bring to conference with Senate Bill 143.

I am of the mind that we should have our library services provisions formally on the table when we go to conference with the House. Thus, the amendment I am offering would include the Institute of Museum and Library Services reauthorization as part of S. 143. Those provisions stress the importance of both museums and libraries to literacy, to economic development, and to workforce development -- all of which are both relevant and important to the bill now under consideration.

Mr. President, I do not believe this amendment is or should be considered controversial, and I would urge its approval.

## **Library Services**

- 1. House has reauthorization of LSCA as part of its Adult Education Block Grant, which will be a part of the House-Senate Conference on Workforce Development, the bill we are now debating on the floor.**

**Note: Both the Rhode Island library people and you prefer money that flows to the state library agency. In the House bill, the money would flow to the Governor.**

- 2. Senate bill has no library services provisions in Workforce Development, which will place us at the great disadvantage during conference.**
- 3. Senate library services provisions are part of the Endowment reauthorization bill, and are contained in the Institute of Museum and Library Services.**
- 4. The library community likes the library provisions in our bill, and opposes those in the House bill. They would like to see our provisions added to the Workforce Development bill.**
- 5. Proposal: Take the Institute of Museum and Library Services proposal already approved by the Labor Committee and add them to the Workforce Development bill as an amendment. Amendment would be relevant because there is language in the IMLS provisions that reference workforce development, economic development, and literacy.**
- 6. Jean Simon supports this approach, as does the library community.**
- 7. Recommendation: draft amendment; proceed to clear with Jeffords, Kennedy and Kassebaum.**

**Have already had conversations with staff of Jeffords and Kassebaum. They are amenable as long as there is agreement by all four. We are trying to get in touch with Kathy Kruse to get Kennedy clearance.**