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REPORT LANGUAGE
SEC. 7. INTERGENERATIONAL LIBRARY SERVICES
(TITLE I, Sec. 101).

Across our Nation, more and more children are being left unattended in libraries afterschool due to the lack of adequate, affordable day care. Library staff time is increasingly being spent in ensuring that these children do not disturb other patrons or damage library property, thus decreasing the time that can be spent serving the needs of all library visitors. According to a 1988 report prepared by the Service to Children Committee of the Public Library Association, a Division of the American Library Association, "what to do with and about library 'latchkey children' has become one of the most rapidly developing public policy arenas."

One way to address this problem is through intergenerational programs. Using older volunteers to provide literacy and reading skills programs for children provides a meaningful way for older Americans to share their talents; it greatly benefits the children who receive both assistance in developing reading skills and special attention from an older adult; it helps the staffs of public libraries who are taking time from their other duties to supervise latchkey children; and, in a small way, it is addressing our Nation's growing need for day care given the increasing number of women who are working.

The Committee recognizes that libraries are committed to helping children and believes that it is appropriate to provide assistance that will enable libraries to develop intergenerational programs in which older volunteers provide school literacy and reading skills programs for unsupervised school children during afterschool hours.
TITLE VI.

The managers emphasize the increasing problem of unsupervised school children in public libraries afterschool. Libraries are encouraged to design and apply for literacy program grants to establish intergenerational programs in which older volunteers help these children with literacy and reading skills.