

1989

Library Services Improvement Act (1989): Memorandum 04

Doris Dixon

Follow this and additional works at: http://digitalcommons.uri.edu/pell_neh_I_56

Recommended Citation

Dixon, Doris, "Library Services Improvement Act (1989): Memorandum 04" (1989). *Library Services Improvement Act (1989)*. Paper 9.
http://digitalcommons.uri.edu/pell_neh_I_56/9

This Memorandum is brought to you for free and open access by the Education: National Endowment for the Arts and Humanities, Subject Files I (1973-1996) at DigitalCommons@URI. It has been accepted for inclusion in Library Services Improvement Act (1989) by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@URI. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@etal.uri.edu.

Sent to Braden G.
10-6-89

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Mark Siqurski, Legislative Counsel
FROM: Doris Dixon, Senator Cochran 224-3193
DATE: October 2, 1989
SUBJECT: Amendment to the Library Services and Construction Act
Reauthorization Bill (S. 1291)

Senator Cochran would like to offer an amendment to S. 1291 to provide an authorization for Library Literacy Demonstration grants. This amendment will create a new Title VIII and will incorporate language which has already been added as an amendment to the House bill entitled Family Learning Centers (H.R. 2742, Title VIII) with new language to allow funding for Library Literacy Centers demonstration projects. The House language must be revised to conform so that it is also a demonstration program. Both Library Literacy Centers and Family Learning Centers will share Title VIII which will be entitled "Library Learning Center Demonstration Programs." Each will be authorized at \$3 million with a total authorization level of \$6 million for Title VIII for FY 1990 and such sums thereafter.

Title VIII, Sec. 801, of the House bill "Statement of Purpose" should be rewritten to reflect the expanded activity under this title. The new statement of purpose should say something like:

It is the purpose of this title to expand and improve opportunities for lifelong learning by making grants available to local public libraries to encourage the involvement of the Nation's families as partners in their children's education by providing comprehensive, family-oriented library services through Family Learning Centers and to offer literacy programs to adults in a non-threatening environment, in both urban and rural areas with high percentages of functionally illiterate adults, through Library Literacy Centers.

The language detailing how grants will be awarded under Library Literacy Centers will follow Sec. 806 of the House bill and will be similar in format to the Family Learning Center sections.

The purpose would be to establish model library literacy centers throughout the country to help overcome the high incidence of adult functional illiteracy in the United States. The program is intended to reduce the number of functionally illiterate adults and to help them reach full employment through non-threatening learning experiences in their local public library or in their own home.

The program would be coordinated by the State Library Agency in conjunction with an advisory committee made up of a representative from the Governor's office, the State Department of Education, the State Employment Agency and public television. The center would be responsible for making materials available on a loan basis and providing staff training to local libraries.

The amendment would authorize the establishment of not more than one Library Literacy Center per state to be awarded on a competitive basis by the U.S. Department of Education. Priority will be given to those applications from areas with high percentages of illiterate adults and whose program is designed to serve both rural and urban needs.

Centers could be established within the State Library Agency or a local public library with a grant up to \$500,000.

Funds may be used for the acquisition of equipment including but not limited to computers, computer software, video recorders and television monitors; library resource materials; training materials including but not limited to GED print materials and video tapes; video tapes of educational public television programs designed to train functionally illiterate adults; and staffing for coordination and to train personnel at local libraries to assist in programs for illiterate adults. In addition, the Centers would be eligible to receive contributions of reading materials, video tapes, computers and software for training purposes.