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TECHNICAL CORRECTION NEEDED IF LIBRARY/MUSEUM PORTION OF H.R. 1617 IS TO MOVE FORWARD INDEPENDENTLY

Title III, "Museums and Libraries," of the conference agreement (H. Rept. 104-707) on H.R. 1617 could be separated from the bill or attached to another vehicle quite easily. One small portion of text would need a technical correction to avoid references to other parts of the CAREERS Act bill:

Section 231 of the amendment to the Museum Services Act relates to grants to States and specific library uses of funds. Although broader purposes for the Library Services and Technology Act are listed elsewhere, the specific eligible uses of funds are provided in this section. Two general purposes are listed—technological innovation and targeted services.

The area needing revision is subsection 231(a)(1)—on page 116 of H. Rept. 104-707. This technological purpose is narrower than the overall purposes related to technology, and refers back to other non-library parts of H.R. 1617. The recommended correction substitutes slightly modified language from the House-passed bill that avoids references to other parts of H.R. 1617 (substitute language in caps):

(1) establishing or enhancing electronic linkages among or between libraries; LINKING LIBRARIES ELECTRONICALLY WITH EDUCATIONAL, SOCIAL, OR INFORMATION SERVICES; ASSISTING LIBRARIES IN ACCESSING INFORMATION THROUGH ELECTRONIC NETWORKS; ENCOURAGING LIBRARIES IN DIFFERENT JURISDICTIONS AND DIFFERENT TYPES OF LIBRARIES TO ESTABLISH CONSORTIA AND SHARE RESOURCES; OR PAYING COSTS FOR LIBRARIES TO ACQUIRE OR SHARE COMPUTER SYSTEMS AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGIES; and

Any explanatory statement similar to the purpose of the second and third paragraphs under Note 557 on page 270 of H.Rept. 104-707 should be adjusted accordingly, and might read as follows:

This provision requires State agencies to expend at least 96 percent of funds received under this subtitle to establish or enhance electronic linkages among or between libraries, link libraries electronically with educational, social, or information services; assist libraries in accessing information through electronic networks, encourage libraries in different jurisdictions and different types of libraries to establish consortia and share resources; or pay costs for libraries to acquire or share computer systems and telecommunications technologies; and to target library and information services to persons having difficulty using a library and underserved urban and rural communities, including children from families living below the official income poverty line. Each State agency may apportion funds between these purposes, as appropriate, to meet the needs of the individual State.

The Managers note that these purposes are not mutually exclusive, and that enhancing electronic resources may also meet the needs of disadvantaged persons.
Library programs at the Department of Education would be transferred to the Institute of Museum Services creating an expanded Institute of Museum and Library Services. Foundation for the Arts and Humanities would then consist of the following:

1. NEA
2. NEH
3. IMLS (Institute of Museum and Library Services)

Merger would be accomplished through passage of legislation to do three things:

1. Privatize Sallie Mae, the Student Loan Marketing Association which buys loans from banks so they have more funds to make loans to students.
2. Privatize Connie Lee, the College Construction Loan Authority which makes needed construction loans to worthy colleges. (Rhode Island among the states receiving the most assistance under this program.)
3. Establish IMLS (Institute of Museum and Library Services)

Institute of Museum and Library Services

Libraries: $150 million
Museums: $28 million