White House Conference on Library and Information Services: Final Passage (1988): Correspondence 03

William D. Ford

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June 22, 1988

The Honorable Claiborne Pell
Chairman
Subcommittee on Education,
   Arts, and Humanities
Room SD-648
U. S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Claiborne:

In January 1987 during the first session of the 100th Congress, you and I introduced Joint Resolutions calling for a White House Conference on Libraries and Information Services, to be held not later than September 30, 1991. This would be the second such conference; the first having been held in 1979.

Both resolutions (H.J. Res. 90 and S.J. Res. 26) have been passed unanimously but in slightly different forms. Differences between the two resolutions have been resolved at the staff level. To date, however, the Resolution has been neither formally agreed to by the Members of the Conference Committee, nor sent to the President for his signature.

I believe we should move this resolution forward as soon as possible, but definitely before the July 4 recess. Sponsors of the Resolutions, both House and Senate, Democratic and Republican, have unanimously agreed to call for a White House Conference on Libraries. They should have the measure forwarded for the President’s signature. Enactment prior to the July 4th holiday will respond to the increasing number of letters and telephone inquiries on the status of the Resolution.

Enactment of the Resolution prior to the July 4th recess will also coincide with the American Library Association’s national conference scheduled to commence on July 8th. If action does not occur prior to the AIA conference, you can well imagine that we will be inundated with mail and telephone calls. The
active, politically sophisticated members of the American Library Association have waited 4 years for passage of legislation calling for this second White House Conference, and they will not want to come away from their national conference this year being no closer to success then they were when they started four years ago.

I look forward to working with you to bring this legislation to fruition.

With warm personal regards, I am

Sincerely,

WILLIAM D. FORD
Member of Congress