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White House Conference on Library and  
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## White House Conference on Library and Information Services: Final Passage (1988): Correspondence 05

Claiborne Pell

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# United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND  
HUMAN RESOURCES

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

February 2, 1987

Dear Colleague:

On January 21, 1987, I introduced S. J. Res. 26 to authorize and request the President to call a White House Conference on Library and Information Services no later than October 1989.

This proposal arises out of a recommendation of the successful 1979 White House Conference that a similar Conference at the federal level be held every ten years "to establish the national information goals and priorities for the next decade, to assure effective transfer of knowledge to citizenry, and to accomplish this goal in light of accelerated changes in information technology and practices."

It is now time to formally establish this second conference and to begin the serious task of setting an agenda that will properly address the important issues facing our libraries today. I introduced a similar proposal in the 99th Congress which had the bipartisan support of 50 Senators before time ran out, delaying further action until this year.

A White House Conference Preliminary Design Group has already proposed that three overarching themes be the focus for the 1989 Conference: library and information services for productivity, for literacy and for democracy. Each theme is highly topical and will bring attention to areas that are of current concern both to government officials and to those in the library and information services communities.

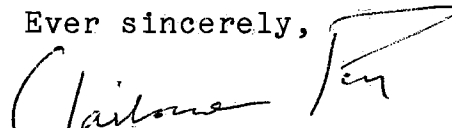
While S. J. Res. 26 calls for "such sums" in authorized funding, it is my intention that the federal contribution toward the cost of this Conference be limited to \$5 million. For comparison, the 1979 White House Conference cost \$3.5 million in federally appropriated funds and in today's dollars, a similar conference would cost approximately \$15 million. The library community has indicated its commitment to raise the balance of \$10 million from the private sector.

I am convinced that this Conference will be a useful and stimulating forum for the discussion of important issues facing

our library and information services communities and will also reaffirm our commitment as legislators to our libraries. I hope you will indicate your support for this important Conference by cosponsoring S. J. Res. 26. Please call Merry Richter on my staff at extension 47666 if you would like to do so.

With warm regards,

Ever sincerely,



Claiborne Pell