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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 06

William D. Ford

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5-6295



*Full Year Delegate  
with a bill*

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COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND LABOR

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

320 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

WASHINGTON, DC 20515

SUBCOMMITTEE ON POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION

September 4, 1985

Dear Colleague:

During the 1979 White House Conference on Library and Information Services, Delegates to the Conference passed a Resolution calling for a National Conference to be held every decade.

Because the end of this decade is fast approaching, and because of the vast amount of preliminary planning that must take place prior to holding a National Conference, I introduced H.J. Res. 244 on April 18<sup>th</sup> authorize and request the President to call a White House Conference on Library and Information Services no later than October 1989. An identical bill (S.J. Res. 112) is pending in the U. S. Senate.

The National Conference reaffirms our commitment to provide all Americans equal opportunity for access to the information required to meet their educational, vocational and recreational needs. It also provides incentives to our Nation's librarians to take on greater responsibility for improving access to information for all citizens (including minority groups and the handicapped), for combating illiteracy, and for promoting the free exchange of information within the United States and abroad. Finally, the Conference encourages individual scholarship, creates and transmits knowledge and ideas, and promotes the prosperity and security of our Nation -- all of which depend on access to published information.

In order to hold the National Conference in October 1989, there are certain timelines that must be met so that planners at the Federal, State and Local levels can have approximately 3 years in which to prepare for and conduct State Library Conferences prior to the National Conference in Washington.

With respect to the pre-White House Conferences to be held in the fifty states and territories prior to the National Conference, it is important for you to know that 20 states have biennial state budgets, requiring these Legislatures to take action no later than 1986 to approve authorizing and appropriations legislation to cover their expenses and to assure that monies are available for expenditure during 1987. The states so affected are: Arkansas, Florida, Hawaii, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Maine, Minnesota, Montana, Nevada, New Hampshire, North Carolina, Ohio, Oregon, Texas, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, Wisconsin and Wyoming.

The above-mentioned states are not likely to take action to pass authorizing legislation or funding bills to cover state conference expenses unless the Federal legislative and appropriations measures have been acted upon. It is our hope and expectation that hearings will have been held by the Senate and the House not later than March 1986, so that a House-Senate Conference can occur by April 1986, in order to help meet the scheduling needs of Federal, State and local governments. If this tentative schedule is met, and H. J. Res. 244 is passed and signed into law by May 1986, then it would be possible to include appropriations for the National Conference in the regular appropriations bill -- sending an important signal to the states having biennial budgets and encouraging them to take similar action.

We can meet the timelines set forth in this letter if there is broad-based, bipartisan support for the White House Conference on Library and Information Services within Congress. This letter is to ask for your support for the Conference through cosponsorship of H.J. Res. 244. If you are interested in cosponsoring, please call Birdie Kyle on my staff on extension 58881.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

WILLIAM D. FORD  
Chairman