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Institute of Museum and Library Services Act (1996): Report 14

American Library Association

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ALA American Library Association

RESOLUTION ON THE LIBRARY SERVICES AND TECHNOLOGY ACT

WHEREAS, The Library Services and Construction Act, which has stimulated public library innovation, improved services and facilities, literacy, interlibrary cooperation, and resource sharing throughout its history, is currently under reconsideration by Congress; and

WHEREAS, Both House and Senate have passed an updated, reorganized, clearly prioritized federal role to stimulate technological innovation and improvement of library services for the American people; and

WHEREAS, Both H.R. 1617 and S. 143 include variations of the Library Services and Technology Act developed by the American Library Association, the Chief Officers of State Library Agencies and the Urban Libraries Council; and

WHEREAS, ALA, COSLA, and ULC have developed joint recommendations for the House-Senate conference committee that must reconcile differences between the two versions; and

WHEREAS, The purpose of these recommendations is enactment of an effective, appropriate and responsible program of federal stimulus to technological innovation in libraries and improvement of library services for the American people; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the American Library Association endorse the joint ALA-COSLA-ULC conference recommendations on LSTA, including the following features:

Retention of the state-based approach of both bills-- sending most funds through state library agencies to allow maximum flexibility and encourage partnerships to meet differing needs for library service in the states and localities.

Retention of the fuller federal role of S. 143--with an authorization level that accommodates a small amount of direct federal assistance for national needs and special

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projects in libraries, special demonstrations, education and training programs, and preservation of library materials; retention of ESEA III-F school library resources program as an authorized program.

Retention of the Senate bill's structure, with library programs administered by an Institute of Museum and Library Services, in order to achieve the Senate's more comprehensive federal role.

Shortening, simplifying, and reducing the bureaucratic requirements of the LSTA provisions, for retention of the House bill's simplicity.

Retention of House and Senate emphasis on workforce and economic development, and literacy and lifelong learning, while maintaining a balance between stimulating technology infrastructure for libraries, and assistance to those who need special help for access to library services and information technologies;

and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the American Library Association recommend to Congress enactment of a Library Services and Technology Act that incorporates the ALA-COSLA-ULC recommendations.

Adopted by the Council of the
American Library Association
San Antonio, Texas
January 24, 1996
(Council Document 20.1)