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White House Conference on Library and Information Services: Early Stages (1979-1985): Correspondence 15

Mary Allice Hedge Reszetar

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March 8, 1985

Mr. Alexander Crary
Subcommittee on Education, Arts & Humanities
648 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Sandy:

Per Senator Pell's request, enclosed is the fifth draft of the compilation of suggestions concerning the rewrite of Public Law 93-568, the bill which authorized a 1979 White House Conference on Library and Information Services.

Also enclosed is the third draft which shows on page four the various ideas which were considered in the breakdown of categories for participants in the 1989 Conference.

I look forward to meeting with you to discuss these drafts after you have had time to review them. Please call me at 382-0840 so we can set a date.

Sincerely,

Mary Alice Hedge Reszetar
Associate Director

Enclosures (2)
Public Law [93-568]* 99- ??
[93rd] 99th Congress, S.J. Res. [40] ?

JOINT RESOLUTION

To authorize and request the President to call a White House Conference on Library and Information Services to be held not later than [1978] 1989, and for other purposes.

Whereas access to information and ideas is indispensable to the development of human potential, the advancement of civilization, and the continuance of enlightened self-government; and 88 STAT. 185

Whereas the preservation and the dissemination of information and ideas are the primary purpose and function of library and information services in the public and private sectors; and

Whereas the economic vitality of the United States in a global economy and the productivity of America's work force rest on access to information in this post-industrial information age;

Whereas the White House Conference on Library and Information Services of 1979 began a process in which a broadly representative group of citizens expressed their vision and hopes for library and information services in the United States, made recommendations that have improved this country's library and information services, its education and its well-being, and sparked the Nation's interest in the crucial role of library and information services at home and abroad, offering a foundation for a second White House Conference.

Whereas social, demographic and economic shifts of the past decade have intensified the rate of change and mandated that Americans of all ages develop and sustain literacy and other life long learning habits, and because library and information service is essential to a learning society;
information services, its education and its well-being, and sparked the Nation's interest in the crucial role of library and information services at home and abroad, offering a foundation for a second White House Conference.

Whereas social, demographic and economic shifts of the past decade have intensified the rate of change and mandated that Americans of all ages develop and sustain literacy and other lifelong learning habits, and because library and information service is essential to a learning society;

Whereas expanding technological developments offer unprecedented opportunities for application to teaching and learning and to new means to provide access to library and information services;

Whereas the growth and augmentation of the Nation's libraries and information centers services are essential if all Americans are to have reasonable access to adequate information and lifelong learning to meet their own needs and the needs of society [services of] libraries and information [centers] services; and

Whereas the future of our society depends on developing the learning potential inherent in all children and youth regardless of race, ethnic background or geographical location;

WHEREAS children need to be encouraged toward early literacy, reading, and use of search and retrieval skills;

Whereas libraries provide a supportive learning environment for people of all ages thereby strengthening families and communities;

Whereas [new achievements in] rapidly developing and changing technology offer a potential for enabling libraries and information [centers] services to serve the public more fully, expeditiously, and economically; and

Whereas maximum realization of the potential inherent in the use of advanced technology by libraries and information [centers] services requires cooperation through planning for, and coordination [of, the services] of libraries and information [centers] services; and

Whereas emerging satellite communication networks and other technologies offer unparalleled opportunity for access to education opportunities to all parts of the world, to the homebound, handicapped, incarcerated, speakers of other languages,
December 31, 1984

Public Law 93-568

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA IN CONGRESS ASSEMBLED, That (a) the President of the United States is authorized to call a White House Conference on Library and Information Services to be held not later than 1989. 

(b)(1) The purpose of the White House Conference on Library and Information Services (hereinafter referred to as the "Conference") shall be to develop recommendations for the further improvement of the Nation's libraries and information centers services and their use by the public, in accordance with the findings set forth in the preamble to this joint resolution.

(2) The Conference shall be composed of, and bring together--

(A) representatives of professional and lay people, from all age groups and walks of life and other members of the general public;

(B) representatives of local, statewide, regional, and national institutions, agencies, organizations, and associations which provide library and information services to the public;

(C) representatives of educational institutions, agencies, organizations, and associations (including professional and scholarly associations for the advancement of education and research);

(D) persons with special knowledge of, and special competence in, technology as it may be used for the improvement of library and information services; and

(E) representatives of Federal, State, and local governments, professional and lay people from all age groups and all walks of life, and other members of the general public;

(F) there shall be one-fourth of the participants from the library/information profession, one-fourth lay people who are currently active library and information supporters (eg. trustees & friends groups), one-fourth state or local government officials and one-fourth lay citizens from the general public.

(G) State/territorial delegates and alternates to the national conference will have participated in their state/territorial conference;

(c)(1) The Conference shall be planned and conducted under the direction of the National Commission on Libraries and Information Science (hereinafter referred to as the "Commission").

(2) In administering this joint resolution, the Commission shall--

(A) when appropriate, request the cooperation and assistance of other Federal departments and agencies in order to carry out its responsibilities;

(B) make technical and financial assistance (by grant, contract, or otherwise) available to the States to enable them to organize and conduct conferences and other meetings in order to prepare for the Conference; and
(C) prepare and make available background materials for the use of delegates to the Conference and associated State conferences, and prepare and distribute such reports of the Conference and associated State conferences as may be appropriate;

(D) have fiscal oversight responsibility.

(3)(A) Each Federal department, [and] agency, including the national libraries, is authorized and directed to cooperate with, and provide assistance to the Commission upon its request under clause (A) of paragraph (2). For that purpose, each Federal department and agency is authorized and encouraged to provide personnel to the Commission. The Commission shall be deemed to be a part of any executive or military department of which a request is made under clause (A) of paragraph (2).

[(B) The Librarian of Congress is authorized to detail personnel to the Commission, upon request, to enable the Commission to carry out its functions under this joint resolution.]

(4) In carrying out the provisions of this joint resolution, the Commission is authorized to engage such personnel as may be necessary to assist the Commission and the Advisory Committee, without regard for the provisions of title 5, United States Code, governing appointments in the competitive civil service, and without regard for chapter 51, and subchapter III of chapter 53 of such title relating to classification and General Schedule pay rates.

(5) The Commission is authorized to have the private sector publish and distribute for the Conference the reports authorized under this joint resolution. Copies of all such reports shall be provided to the depository libraries.

(6) Members of the Conference may, while away from their homes or regular places of business and attending the Conference, be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, as may be allowed under section 5703 of title 5, United States Code, for persons serving without pay. Such expenses may be paid by way of advances, reimbursement, or in installments as the Commission may determine.

(d) A final report of the Conference, containing such findings and recommendations as may be made by the Conference, shall be submitted to the President not later than one hundred and twenty days following the close of the Conference, which final report shall be made public and, within ninety days after its receipt by the President, transmitted to the Congress together with a statement of the President containing the President's recommendations with respect to such report.

(e)(1) There is hereby established a twenty-eight member advisory committee of the Conference composed of (A) at least [three members] six or eight persons [of the Commission] designated by the Chairman [thereof] of NCLIS; (B) five persons designated by the Speaker of the House of Representatives with no more than three being members of the House of Representatives; (C) five persons designated by the President pro tempore of the Senate with no more than three being members of the Senate; and (D) not more than [fifteen] twelve or ten
persons appointed by the President including the Secretary of Edu­
cation and the Librarian of Congress. These appointments shall
reflect geographic distribution. Such advisory committee shall
assist and advise the Commission in planning and conducting the
Conference. The Chairman of the Commission shall serve as
Vice Chairman of the [Conference] Advisory Committee. The Advisory
Committee elects the Chair of the Advisory Committee from among its
members. The Advisory Committee Chairman shall not be a full-time Federal
employee. The Advisory Committee selects the Chair of the Conference.

(2) The Chairman of the [Commission] Advisory Committee is auth­
orized, in his/her discretion, to establish, prescribe func­
tions for, and appoint members to, such [advisory and technical] committees and staff as may be necessary to assist and advise the
Conference in carrying out its functions.

(3) Members of any committee established under this subsection who are not regular full-time officers of employees of the United States shall, while attending to the business of the Conference, be entitled to receive compensation therefor at a rate fixed by
the President but not exceeding the rate of pay specified at the time of such service for grade GS-18 in section 5332 of title 5, United States Code, including traveltime. Such members, may
while away from their homes or regular places of business, be al­
lowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, as may be authorized under section 5703 of title 5, United States Code, for persons in the Government service employed intermittent­ly.

(f) The Commission shall have authority to accept, on behalf of the Conference, in the name of the United States, grants, gifts, or bequests of money for immediate disbursement by the Commission in furtherance of the Conference. Such grants, gifts, or bequests offered the Commission, shall be paid by the donor or his repre­sentative to the Treasurer of the United States, whose receipts shall enter such grants, gifts, and bequests in a special account to the credit of the Commission for the purposes of this joint
resolution. The Commission's fiscal oversight responsibility shall include the authority to employ a private sector audit firm. Materials and equipment acquired by the White House Conference shall revert to NCLIS after the White House Conference staff dis­bands.

(g) For the purpose of this joint resolution, the term "State" includes the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, the Virgin Islands, [and] the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, and American Indian Tribes on or near Reservations.

(h) There are authorized to be appropriated without fiscal year limitations such sums, but not to exceed [$3,500,000], insert amount equivalent to $3.5 million in 1974, as may be necessary to carry out this joint resolution. Such sums shall remain available for obligation until expended.
December 31, 1984

Public Law 93-568

APPROVED DECEMBER 31, 1974.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY:

HOUSE REPORTS: No. 93-1056 (Comm. on Education and Labor) and No. 93-1619 (Comm. of Conference).

SENATE REPORTS: No. 93-521 (Comm. on Labor and Public Welfare) and No. 93-1409 (Comm. of Conference).

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD:


Dec. 13, Senate concurred in House amendment with an amendment.

Dec. 16, Senate reconsidered and concurred in House amendment with an amendment.

Dec. 19, House and Senate agreed to conference report.

For background information the 1979 WHCLIS Themes were:

Library and Information Services for:

I. Personal Needs
II. Lifelong Learning
III. Organizations and the Professions
IV. Governing Our Society
V. International Understanding)