

1996

Institute of Museum and Library Services Act (1996): Correspondence 17

Jack Reed

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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20515

JACK REED
2ND DISTRICT, RHODE ISLAND

February 29, 1996

Senator Claiborne Pell
335 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Pell:

I wanted to share with you a letter I recently sent to your fellow conferees on the job training consolidation conference.

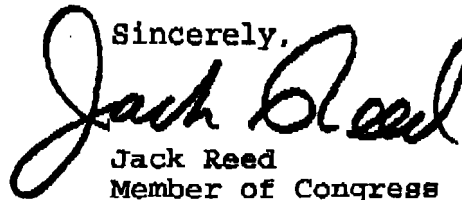
The enclosed letter, signed by a number of my House colleagues, stresses how important it is to preserve the Elementary and Secondary School Library Media Act. I organized this letter because I was the sponsor of this legislation to establish a specific fund to help our nation's out-date libraries. With your assistance, we were able to enact this legislation in the 103rd Congress.

As you know, the House bill eliminates this provision, while the Senate bill wisely retains it. In light of our past work together on this issue, I would personally appreciate any effort you might take to insist on the Senate position during the conference.

In closing, I cannot reiterate the value of your past assistance to my efforts, and I look forward to continuing our work on behalf of education.

Warm regards and best wishes.

Sincerely,



Jack Reed
Member of Congress

JACK REED
2D DISTRICT, RHODE ISLAND

COMMITTEES
ECONOMIC AND EDUCATIONAL
OPPORTUNITIES
JUDICIARY

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3902

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November 8, 1995

Dear Conferee:

As you prepare for the conference committee on H.R. 1617, the CAREERS Act, and S.143, we write to seek your support for a program that is critical to strengthening school library services -- the Elementary and Secondary School Library Media Act. This legislation was passed last Congress with strong bipartisan support.

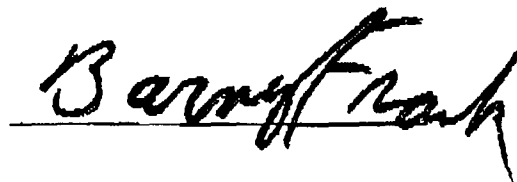
As you know, this provision was repealed in H.R.1617 but preserved in S.143. We strongly encourage you to support the Senate's position.

Elementary and secondary school libraries throughout the country are dependent on collections purchased in the mid-1960s under the original Elementary and Secondary Education Act's dedicated funding. The ESEA no longer includes targeted funds for library materials and, as a result, school library collections are deteriorating from use and are just plain out of date. In fact, the average copyright date of a book in school libraries nation-wide is 1965. Not only does this precede the breakup of the Soviet Union, this date is even before we landed a manned spacecraft on the moon.

All of us in Congress are aware of the rapid change in our world. We depend on a vast multitude of information sources to keep us current so that we can make informed decisions. Last Congress, Democrats and Republicans agreed that our children deserve the same. Surely we should not retreat on this commitment.

For these reasons, we strongly urge you to accept the Senate position and preserve the School Library Media Act. We appreciate your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



John W. Oliver

Bob Filner

Phil And

Alfred E. Au

Pat Ah

Donald W. Payne

William D. Day

Debra Sutt

Sam Gib

Jim Berstar

Alfred Hastings

Lynne Mulla

William J. Cape

MR. Ducas

Vic Fazio

Eliot L. Engel

Richard Shear

Ed Murley