

2016

White House Conference on Library and Information Services: Early Stages (1979-1985): Correspondence 18

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Ms. Elinor M. Hashim
Executive Director
National Commission on Libraries and Information Science
GSA Building
7th & D Streets, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20024

Dear Ms. Hashim:

As you know, early in the 99th Congress I will be introducing a bill calling for a White House Conference on Library and Information Services in 1989.

Public Law 91-345, ^{PL 91-345} the enabling charter of NCLIS, directs the Commission to advise the Congress on the implementation of national policy. This law also includes a Statement of Policy in Section 2. "The Congress hereby affirms that library and information services adequate to meet the needs of the people of the United States are essential to achieve national goals and to utilize most effectively the Nation's educational resources and that the Federal Government will cooperate with State and local governments and public and private agencies in assuring optimum provision of such services."

The 1979 White House Conference Delegates passed ^{a resolution} Resolution F-3, "Be it resolved, ^{directing that} that a White House or a Federal Conference on Library and Information Services be held every decade 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."

NCLIS passed a resolution on July 10, 1984 that requests commitment by...the United States Senate...to the planning and conduct of a national conference on library and information services in 1989 and that in consultation with...the leadership of the United State Senate...designate during the latter half of Fiscal Year 1985...a preliminary Conference Design Group to initiate planning for appointment of a National Conference Committee (to be made in FY 1986) and for the agenda of the Conference and the schedule of events leading to the Confernece...

The White House Conference on Library and Information Services Taskforce (WHCLIST) on September 6, 1984 passed a resolution which directed NCLIS to take responsibility for the 1989 White House Conference.

^{would like to}
I request ^{that} NCLIS ~~to~~ work with me in developing the specifications that should be in the bill I introduce and in preparing for the Congressional hearings I will hold about the bill. ^{we} have

My staff and I

worked effectively over the past seventeen years with your Associate Director, Mary Alice Hedge Reszetar, and we look forward to continuing to do so.

Sincerely,

Claiborne Fell