2017 National Library Legislative Day Priority

Support Full Funding for Critical Federal Library Programs
in the Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill

The American Library Association asks all Members of Congress to:

1) **FUND** the *Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA)* at $186.6 million for FY 2018
to keep library services vibrant for students, businesspersons, veterans and users of all kinds in tens of thousands of communities in every state in the nation.

2) **REAUTHORIZE** LSTA’s bipartisan enabling statute, the *Museum and Library Services Act*, promptly upon its introduction in the 115th Congress to underscore the importance of programs administered by the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS).

3) **APPROPRIATE** $27 million in FY 2018, as in FY 2017 and 2016, for the *Innovative Approaches to Literacy (IAL)* program to enable school libraries and non-profits to obtain essential materials, books and supplies for the nation’s neediest children.

What do these programs mean for libraries and the public?

- **LSTA** is the only federal funding program for libraries. Most of its resources flow to each state through the IMLS in the form of a population-based matching grant (see reverse for funding by state). Each state determines how best to use its own LSTA allocation. Because federal LSTA funds are matched in part by each state, libraries would lose both sources of revenue if LSTA funding were reduced or eliminated.

  States previously have issued grants to libraries, for example, to: update technology services and resources; create summer reading programs; assist job seekers to build resumes and apply for jobs; and assist veterans and many others to obtain public services. Demand for such services has grown in concert with the need to apply online for jobs and government services, especially among Americans who don’t have adequate or affordable broadband in their homes.

- **IAL** promotes student literacy from birth through high school by making competitive grant awards to school libraries and national not-for-profit organizations used for providing books and childhood literacy programs to children and families in high-need communities. IAL is the only source of federal funding for school library materials targeting literacy. In addition, IAL programs across the country provide books for children to keep, which often become the only books that child has in their home.

  Other valuable IAL-funded programs have helped buy e-readers, expand school library access, support parents’ engagement in their children’s reading and replace outdated library materials. Level funding of $27 million for IAL in FY 2018 will permit libraries to continue to serve millions of school children in every state in the nation.