



July 28, 2017

Colleagues,

As Congress heads into its August recess, I want to update you on the progress we've made in the fight to save federal library funding.

I am pleased to share that the Appropriations Committee in the U.S. House of Representatives recently passed an FY 2018 spending bill without making any cuts in federal funding for libraries and, in fact, provides a \$20 million dollar increase for the National Library of Medicine. The bill includes:

- \$231 million to fund the Institute of Museum and Library Services, including LSTA;
- \$27 million to fund the Department of Education's Innovative Approaches to Literacy program; and
- \$413.9 million to fund the National Library of Medicine.

The next step in this process is for the full House to consider the bill when members of Congress return to Washington after Labor Day. The Senate has not yet acted, but its committees will begin consideration of federal library funding then as well.

Advocates must continue to engage with their elected officials and remind them why federal funding is important to libraries and the patrons they serve. Here's what you can do in the next five weeks of the summer:

- [Invite your members of Congress](#) (or their staff) to your library and show them how you are serving your community.
- [Write a letter to the editor](#) for your local newspaper urging your members of Congress to support library funding.
- Ask to meet with your representative and senators (or their staff) over the summer, when they are home.
- [Invite friends to sign up for alerts](#) and join the fight.

The last four months have proven our elected leaders are listening. Your commitment to staying involved at the local level is key to furthering our success. Your energy and outreach have been amazing.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Jim Neal'.

Jim Neal  
ALA President