**2017-2018 ALA CD#20.1-#20.4**

**2018 ALA Annual Conference**

**ALA Committee on Legislation**

**Report to Council**

**2018 Annual Meeting – New Orleans, LA**

**Kent Oliver**

**Chair, ALA Committee on Legislation**

**June 26, 2018**

**Public Policy Highlights:**

COL is pleased to announce that yesterday, the House Appropriations Labor-HHS-Education Subcommittee released its funding bill report that includes level or increased funding for several important library programs. The House Subcommittee bill provides level funding for the Library Services and Technology Act, the Institute of Museum and Library Services, the Innovative Approaches to Literacy program, and the Striving Readers program. Additional resources are recommended for Career & Technical Education State Grants and Title IV Part A (school funding for well-rounded, healthy students, and technology). The President had recommended elimination of many of these programs but thanks to the work of many, many ALA member-many of you here today-COL and the entire Washington Office, Congress has heard our message and responding positively. We’re not at the finish line but we are well positioned in our funding battles.

For additional information about recent developments in public policy, see the [Washington Office Report](http://www.ala.org/aboutala/sites/ala.org.aboutala/files/content/governance/council/council_documents/2018ac_council_docs/cd_30_1_WO%206-Month%20Report_AC18.docx) (CD#30.1).

**Committee on Legislation activities:**

**COL brings resolutions to Council *(Council action requested)*:** The Committee on Legislation proposes the following resolutions to Council, the full text of which is included below:

* A Tribute Resolution Honoring Pat May Upon her Retirement, which recognizes the Washington Office Director of Administration’s 30 years of staff service to ALA and her upcoming retirement;
* A Resolution Recognizing the 25th Anniversary of the GPO Access Act and Calling for the Enactment of the FDLP Modernization Act (CD#20\_2), which recognizes the 25th anniversary of the seminal law for online public access to government information; and
* Resolution to Reunite Detained Migrant Children with their Parents (CD#20\_3), which expresses concern about the policy of family separation at the U.S. border.

In addition, COL endorsed the Resolution to Honor African Americans Who Fought Library Segregation

(ALA CD#41), which recognizes the efforts of those who opposed unjust public policy that limited equal access to library services.

**COL is modernizing committee activities:** The Committee on Legislation is reviewing its charge, subcommittees, and meetings, in order to improve collaboration and coordination in ALA’s public policy and advocacy efforts. COL will be submitted a revised draft charge to the Committee on Organization. COL’s current charge was last revised in the 1960s and does not reflect ALA’s recent practice. In addition, COL has also asked each of its subcommittees to review their charges and recommend any needed updates, which COL plans to review in the coming year. COL’s Grassroots Subcommittee is sunsetting its Federal Legislative Advocacy Group working group, whose work will move forward through ALA’s new effort to develop a national advocacy network. COL will also review its Legislative Assembly to consider if it is the most effective mechanism to reach out throughout ALA. (See below for information about COL’s recent efforts to proactively reach out to ALA member groups.)

**COL is developing a legislative agenda to strengthen ALA’s advocacy:** In order to strengthen ALA’s strategic focus on advocacy, COL is developing a legislative agenda for the association. The agenda will annually highlight priorities for federal legislation, reflecting current opportunities with the greatest impact on libraries. The goals of the agenda are to raise issue awareness in the library community and to guide the work of the ALA staff. The committee plans to consider a draft of the agenda at its retreat this fall.

**COL reaches out to ALA divisions:** COL members reached out to the boards of each ALA division prior to Annual and offered to present information about the association’s legislative activities and hear questions or suggestions from the divisions. COL members attended the meetings of the AASL, ASCLA, LITA, LLAMA, PLA, RUSA and United for Libraries boards. COL will provide written information to the other division boards to engage them in discussions about how to contribute to the association’s policy advocacy.

**COL considers future of Policy Corps:** COL discussed the Policy Corps initiative to develop the next generation of library policy and advocacy experts. The program was launched this year as part of Jim Neal’s presidential program, in collaboration with AASL, ACRL, PLA, United for Libraries and the ALA Washington Office. COL discussed how the program can continue in FY 2019 and future years in order to continue developing member expertise and relationships with policymakers.

**COL encourages all ALA members to advocate for library priorities:** Successful advocacy for library policy priorities relies on the active and continued engagement of ALA members as community leaders and policy advocates. COL encourages library professionals and supporters to join in the ongoing work of fostering relationships with policymakers in their communities. COL asks ALA members to consider inviting their members of Congress to visit a local library this summer to show them how the library is transforming your community. ALA’s Washington Office staff can advise ALA members on how to begin working with the staff in your congressional district office. Each visit and each relationship will contribute to ALA’s upcoming effort to build a national network of library advocates in each Congressional district, in collaboration with state associations.

**COL recognizes departing members:** The contributions of several COL members needs to be recognized as they depart the Committee. Four members, Eboni Henry, Kari Mitchell, Adi Redzic and Christian Zabriskie, as well as intern Baxter Quinn Andrews, are departing COL and we thank them for their contributions and look forward to their future engagement as public policy advocates. We also recognize outgoing chair, Kent Oliver, and note our appreciation for his leadership over the past year. We welcome incoming chair, Mario Ascencio, and COL’s incoming members.

COL also extends its thanks and well wishes to Lois Ann Gregory-Wood, who has been so instrumental in keeping COL in line and our reports on point.

**2017-2018 ALA CD#20.2**

**2018 ALA Annual Conference**

**A Resolution Recognizing the 25th Anniversary of the GPO Access Act and**

**Calling for the Enactment of the FDLP Modernization Act**

Whereas, on June 8, 1993, the Government Printing Office Electronic Information Access Enhancement Act of 1993, Public Law 103-40, also known as the GPO Access Act, was signed into law; and

Whereas, the GPO Access Act transformed the Federal Depository Library Program (FDLP) by providing free public access to federal government publications online, including an online catalog (the Catalog of U.S. Government Publications) and digital repository (govinfo.gov); and

Whereas, the GPO Access Act was one of the earliest federal laws requiring the government to provide public access to information online and paved the way for wider use of the Internet as a means for public access to government information; and

Whereas, the American Library Association adopted Council Document #27.5, Resolution on Public Law 103-40 Government Printing Office Electronic Information Access Act Enhancement Act of 1993, at its 1993 Annual Conference in New Orleans, Louisiana, which declared, “Enactment of this Act is a splendid first step in establishing a framework that will guarantee the public equitable, free, and easy access to government information in electronic format;” and

Whereas, no-fee permanent public access to government information online, in partnership with libraries and the FDLP, remains essential to providing effective library and information services; now, therefore be it

*Resolved*, that the American Library Association, on behalf of its members:

1. Recognizes the efforts of the policymakers, government officials, librarians and advocates who have been involved in enacting, implementing, and providing access to the important services created under the GPO Access Act; and

2. Calls for further modernization of government information services to improve the public’s access to government information by enactment of the FDLP Modernization Act, H.R. 5305.

Endorsed in principle by the Government Documents Roundtable (6/24/2018).

**2017-2018 ALA CD#20.3**

**2018 ALA Annual Conference**

**Resolution to Reunite Detained Migrant Children with their Parents**

Whereas the United States (US) has never ratified the United Nations (UN) Convention Rights of the Child, protecting children from discrimination based on their parent’s or legal guardian’s sex, race, religion, and other identifiers;

Whereas the US “zero tolerance policy” resulted in the criminalization of adults at the border and the traumatic separation of over 2,300 migrant children from their parents or legal guardians;

Whereas Executive Order 13841, *Affording Congress an Opportunity to Address Family Separation* (June 20, 2018), does not require that the already detained migrant children be reunited with their parents or their legal guardians;

Whereas “refugees should not be penalized for their illegal entry or stay,” and not be “charged with immigration or criminal offenses relating to the seeking of asylum, or being arbitrarily detained purely on the basis of seeking asylum,” (UN General Assembly resolution 429(V) of December 14, 1950);

Whereas the American Library Association has gone on record opposing the refugee family separation policy; now therefore, be it

*Resolved*, that the American Library Association (ALA), on behalf of its members:

1. reaffirms the “Resolution in Support of Immigrant Rights” (2006-2007 CD #20.2);
2. reaffirms the “Resolution on Improving Access to Spanish, Bilingual, and Books in Various Languages for Children in Detention Centers” (2015-2016 CD#38);
3. calls on federal agencies to ensure that documentation of children and families is sufficient for the seamless reunification of families or their legal guardians;

1. requests that the U.S. government honor the UN General Assembly resolution 429(V) of December 14, 1950, regarding the legal status of refugees; and
2. urges its members to contact their elected officials at all levels to express their continuing concern regarding the criminalization and separation of refugee families at the border.

**2017-2018 ALA CD#20.4**

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**Subcommittee Reports:**

**Copyright**

COL’s Copyright Subcommittee and the OITP Advisory Committee’s Copyright Education Subcommittee have joined forces, creating a new Copyright Legislation, Education and Advisory Network (CLEAN) reporting as a subcommittee to COL. CLEAN developed a new charge statement for COL review and plans to continue all aspects of its prior work including copyright education, monthly webinars, programming at conferences, the Copyright Advisory Network, copyright legislation and input on regulatory filings.

**Government Information**

The Government Information Subcommittee met jointly with the Government Documents Roundtable’s Legislation Committee. The members heard updates from David Walls of the Government Publishing Office and Meg Phillips of the National Archives and Records Administration. The members discussed the tribute resolution honoring the 25th anniversary of the GPO Access Act and recommended that COL bring the resolution to Council. The resolution recognizes the historical impact of the GPO Access Act in paving the way for public access to government information online and looks forward to the continuing modernization of the Federal Depository Library Program (FDLP), such as through the FDLP Modernization Act (H.R. 5305). The members also reviewed the subcommittee’s current charge and agreed that it is generally up-to-date and appropriate.

**Grassroots**

The primary focus of the Grassroots meeting was further discussion of the Congressional App Challenge project, which the subcommittee agreed to undertake at ALA Midwinter 2018. Rachel Décoste, Program Director of the Congressional App Challenge, joined the subcommittee for the first half of the meeting. She presented about the mission of the organization, and spent time working with the group to finalize plans for the subcommittee to reach out to libraries in key districts to encourage them to participate in the challenge. The subcommittee will work with the Congressional App Challenge to finalize letters to be used as part of the outreach, and subcommittee members will perform the outreach over the next few months. The remainder of the meeting was spent discussing updates from the Washington Office, and ideas for future projects, and the direction of the committee.

**Legislation Assembly**

The Legislative Assembly met on Friday afternoon during the 2018 ALA Midwinter Meeting. At this meeting, the staff provided legislative updates to the Assembly. The Assembly also received briefings from several units. There was also an update on the two resolutions being proposed by COL. Following these updates, the meeting concluded with a general discussion on the purpose of Legislation Assembly and if it could be adjusted going forward.

**Telecommunications**

On Saturday, the COL Telecommunications subcommittee met to discuss a range of issues. The committee reviewed top legislative issues active in Washington including net neutrality, MLSA, E-rate, tribal broadband and infrastructure. Members were made aware of the June 26 Net Neutrality Day of Advocacy event in Washington which includes online participation through ALA Action Center. Guest Bob Bocher provided an in-depth discussion of E-rate issues and other policy topics. The committee reviewed its charge adding references to contributions to COL legislative policy agenda, working with other ALA Divisions and chapters on telecom issues, contributing to telecom discussions within the association, and contribute to related activities with the Washington Office. Finally, the committee discussed how to utilize its 2019 Annual Conference in Washington where many telecom experts could be called upon.