



Leadership. Advocacy. Communication.

The Honorable Bill Nelson
716 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

May 9, 2009

Dear Senator Nelson,

On behalf of the Florida Library Association (FLA) and its members, thank you for the support that Congress provides our nation's libraries! During these challenging times, I am pleased to present you with good news! Floridians are turning to libraries more than ever! They are coming in record numbers for help with job searching, for help with E-Government services, to use library computers, to help their children learn to read, and to use books, cd and dvd materials!

I am writing to ask your support for library issues as part of National Library Legislative Day, (May 11 and 12) sponsored by the American Library Association. We are also encouraging library advocates to tell you their stories electronically. This effort is being coordinated with the State Library and Archives of Florida, though all of the views expressed here are solely those of FLA.

This year our issues are:

- **Library Services and Technology Act Funding and Reauthorization** - Please fund the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) at \$300 million. Florida is receiving \$8.7 million in 2009. LSTA is up for reauthorization this year and we request that you support timely reauthorization.

The LSTA is the only federal grant program exclusively for libraries. It is administered by the Institute of Museum and Library Services and is part of the Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies budget.

In Florida, LSTA state grants are administered by the Florida State Library and Archives, part of the Department of State. Funds are expended on statewide programs and projects like the Florida Electronic Library (<http://www.flelibrary.org/>) and are subgranted to local libraries and library organizations to serve local communities.

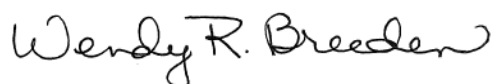
- **Support the E-Rate Program** – For many Florida libraries and schools the E-Rate discounts make the critical difference in their efforts to provide Floridians with access to the Internet. Florida schools and libraries received over \$135 million in E-Rate discounts in 2008.
- **Fund the Improving Literacy Through School Libraries Program At \$100 Million** – This act upgrades school libraries and improves student literacy skills and academic

achievement by providing up-to-date materials and technology and enhancing training for school library media specialists.

- **Support for National Historical Publications and Records Commission Grants (NHPRC)** – These grants benefit Florida’s archives and historical groups, enabling them to preserve and publish historical records that document American and Florida history, and make historical materials more accessible.
- **Consumer Product Safety (lead in library books issue)** – You may be aware of the recent controversy over the Consumer Product Safety Commission’s interpretation that the Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act (CPSIA) applies to ordinary books used by children and concerns about lead in books. Libraries fully support protecting our children. The Center for Disease Control has determined that there is little risk to children from lead in ordinary books. FLA joins the American Library Association in supporting the exemption of ordinary books from the act.
- **Copyright** – We join the American Library Association in opposing H.R. 801 as it seeks to amend copyright law and reverse National Institute of Health (NIH) policy that provides access to taxpayer funded research after a twelve month embargo period.
- **Protect Privacy And Support National Security** – We encourage you to support efforts to strike a better balance between civil liberties and national security in the USA Patriot Act and Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA). Readers’ privacy should be protected and needless, warrantless surveillance should be prevented.

Thank you for your steadfast service to the citizens of Florida and this great country of ours. We respectfully request that you keep the requests of the library community in mind as you decide on these issues.

Sincerely,



Wendy Breeden,
President
The Florida Library Association

Sent to each member of Florida’s Delegation.