



541 E. Tennessee St. ▪ Ste 103 ▪ Tallahassee, FL 32308 ▪ 850-270-9205 ▪ www.flalib.org

April 4, 2018

Dear Senator Rubio,

On behalf of the Florida Library Association, I ask for your support for two vital federal funding programs for Florida's libraries.

As you know, the Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill contains two vital programs that bolster library services: the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) and the Innovative Approaches to Literacy program (IAL).

Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA): The Library Services and Technology Act funds programs that support Americans' education, workforce, and economic development needs, including \$8.3 million annually to Florida's libraries. State officials, not the federal government, decide how best to use LSTA funds to promote innovation, lifelong learning, research and access to information. In addition, states are required to provide a 1:3 match for LSTA funding. For Fiscal Year 2019, we ask your support for providing at least \$190 million for LSTA.

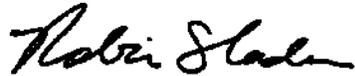
LSTA funds are used for an enormous range of community and business-building activities, including: job training and retraining, computer instruction, resume and business plan design, applying for jobs online, online research resources for elementary through college level students, STEM education, and countless other socially and economically valuable pursuits. Here are just some of the programs funded with these federal dollars:

- Support for E-Government and Workforce Development
- Florida Memory Project
- Florida Electronic Library
- Statewide Youth Program
- E-Rate Assistance
- Florida Library Leadership Program
- Digitizing local cultural resources
- Ask a Librarian – online librarian assistance
- Florida Library Delivery Service
- Continuing education & training for library staff
- Florida Library Job Service Grants to local libraries

Innovative Approaches to Literacy (IAL): The Department of Education's Innovative Approaches to Literacy program helps school libraries provide books, materials, and training focused on serving students in vulnerable communities across our country. For Fiscal Year 2019, we ask your support for providing at least \$27 million for IAL.

We are counting on your support to ensure that Florida's libraries can continue to serve our communities across the Sunshine State. Thank you for your consideration and support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robin Shader". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Robin Shader, MLS
President, Florida Library Association