



NCLIS

U.S. National Commission on
Libraries and Information Science

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COPY

September 26, 2002

The Honorable J. Dennis Hastert
Speaker of the House
H-232 Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Speaker:

As Chairperson of the National Commission on Libraries and Information Science (NCLIS), let me add my voice to those urging you to schedule a vote on H.R. 3784, the Museum and Library Services Act of 2002, before the end of the 107th Congress.

Congress established the National Commission in 1970 to provide policy advice to the President and Congress on the library and information needs of the American people. For the past three decades, the Commission has worked closely with the Congress in shaping the principal legislative vehicle authorizing Federal support for libraries. Throughout most of that time, the law was known as LSCA, the Library Services and Construction Act. In 1996, its focus changed and, incorporated into the Museum and Library Services Act, it became known as the Library Services and Technology Act. The new name recognized the expanding role of information technology in the library world. My predecessor as chair and your fellow Illinoisan, the late Jeanne Simon, was a leader in advancing the LSTA legislation in 1996, and if she were alive today, it would be she, not I, urging you to speedily consider its reauthorization.

The National Commission has indicated its full support of the bill as reported by the Committee on Education and the Workforce in April, and urges the House of Representatives to vote for this important bill as quickly as possible.

Respectfully,

Martha B. Gould
Chairperson

cc: The Honorable Richard K. Arme y, Majority Leader
The Honorable Tom DeLay, Majority Whip
The Honorable J.C. Watts, Jr., Republican Conference Chair
The Honorable Pete Hoekstra, Chairman, House Subcommittee on Select Education