

July 17, 2007

The Honorable Jack Reed
Member, Senate Labor-HHS Appropriations Subcommittee
728 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington DC, 20510

Dear Senator Reed,

Thank you for your continued leadership and commitment to support healthcare issues.

As the FY 2008 appropriations process moves forward the, Medical Library Association (MLA) and the Association of Academic Health Sciences Libraries (AAHSL) would like to express our gratitude for the increased support currently being sought for our nation's health and education programs. We are thankful for the funding increases provided for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the National Library of Medicine (NLM) in the Senate FY 2008 Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations bill.

We are also pleased that the legislation includes a provision that will require all investigators funded by NIH to submit an electronic version of their final, peer-reviewed manuscripts into NLM's PubMed Central within 12 months of acceptance for publication. Mandating participation in PubMed Central will greatly improve access to vital healthcare information. We look forward to passage of the final FY 2008 Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations bill, so that this beneficial policy can be implemented in a manner consistent with copyright law.

We hope that the additional funding being pursued in the FY 2008 Senate Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations bill is indicative of a renewed commitment by appropriators that will continue for years to come. We look forward to working with you during future appropriations cycles to ensure that new funding is properly allocated to best serve the medical research community.

Thank you again for your hard work during the FY 2008 appropriations cycle. We commend the Senate Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations Subcommittee for making this investment in our nation's federal health and education programs a high priority.

MLA is a nonprofit, educational organization with more than 4,500 health sciences information professional members worldwide. Founded in 1898, MLA provides lifelong educational opportunities, supports a knowledgebase of health information research, and works with a global network of partners to promote the importance of quality information for improved health to the health care community and the public.

AAHSL is composed of the directors of the libraries of 142 accredited American and Canadian medical schools that belong to the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC). AAHSL's goals are to promote excellence in academic health sciences libraries and to ensure that the next generation of health practitioners is trained in information-seeking skills that enhance the quality of healthcare delivery.

Sincerely,

Mark Funk Elaine Russo Martin

Mark E. Funk, AHIP, President
Medical Library Association

Elaine Russo Martin, President
Association of Academic Health Sciences Libraries