

TO: ALA Council

DATE: June 13, 2025

RE: (select one)

☒ ACTION REQUESTED

☐ INFORMATION

☒ REPORT

ACTION REQUESTED/INFORMATION/REPORT:

Action requested from Councilors is to cast their vote to:

Approve the “Memorial Resolution Honoring Rep. Raul Grijalva” included in the Committee on Legislation report.

ACTION REQUESTED BY: Committee on Legislation

CONTACT PERSON: Ed Garcia, COL Chair (edlibrary401@gmail.com)

STAFF LIAISON CONTACT: Kevin Maher (kmaher@alawash.org)

**Report to Council
2025 ALA Annual Council Meeting
Ed Garcia, Chair—ALA Committee on Legislation (COL)**

COL Committee members: Ed Garcia (Chair), Kate Alderete, Glen Benedict, Shauntee Burns-Simpson, Deborah Doyle, Dr. Ursula Gorham, Lesliediana Jones, Kathy Lester, Dr. Maria McCauley, Jim Neal, Laura Belle Nelson, Kent Oliver, Jana Stevenson, Brad Warren, Sherry Virginia Neal (committee associate), Dolsy Smith (committee associate), Sara Dallas (Executive Board liaison).

COL Charge

The ALA Council Committee on Legislation (COL) is charged with the responsibility for the association's legislative agenda. Specifically, to:

- Identify, for the Public Policy & Advocacy Office, the association's strategic priorities.
- Recommend, annually, based on consultation with the Public Policy & Advocacy Office, a legislative and public policy agenda.
- Review and advise on any policy statements and/or resolutions that have an impact on federal legislation, policy, or regulations.
- Provide a forum within ALA to share information and legislative analysis of current and impending federal laws and regulations to keep ALA units apprised of current issues affecting libraries.
- Be available to consult, collaborate and offer assistance to state and local library entities when federal legislation has implications at the state and local level.

Legislative Agenda

At the Fall COL retreat in November and December 2024, pursuant to the committee's charge, COL discussed and approved the Federal Legislative and Public Policy Agenda for 2025 (attached to this report). The agenda is focused on four key areas: Funding; Digital Inclusion and Skills; Copyright, Licensing and Competition; and Government Information and Services. The agenda also affirms, "We will remain steadfast in defending libraries, library workers, and the freedom to read, against political threats, including any attempts to criminalize the work of librarianship."

COMMITTEE UPDATES

COL Report to the Executive Board at LibLearnX

COL Chair Ed Garcia and Interim AED Alan Inouye reported to the Executive Board at the LibLearnX meeting in Phoenix, AZ. Ed and Alan discussed several executive orders that had been issued by President Trump in the first days of his administration and the potential impact on libraries.

PPA AED Hiring Committee

COL Chair Ed Garcia served on the hiring committee that the new PPA Associate Executive Director Lisa Varga.

COSLA Voices for Libraries

This year the Chief Officers of State Library Agencies (COSLA) held a separate advocacy event in Washington DC entitled Voices for Libraries on March 5 & 6. COL Chair Ed Garcia attended the event at the invitation of COSLA.

Monthly Briefings

COL met on a monthly basis and received critical updates from the PPA team and Penn Hill Group, one of ALA's contracted lobbying firms.

FEDERAL LEGISLATION AND POLICY UPDATES

FUNDING AND SUPPORT

ALA launches Show Up #ForOurLibraries advocacy initiative

In the wake of the 2024 elections, in late January ALA launched Show Up For Our Libraries (ala.org/showup), an advocacy rebrand to harness the collective power of library advocates to influence elected leaders and policymakers. ALA President Cindy Hohl [called the initiative](#) “a deliberate and well-thought-out plan that calls us to move from awareness to action... not a knee-jerk response to imminent threats.” An [email](#) from ALA's Public Policy and Advocacy Office urged advocates to personalize their communications with legislators. With an emphasis on storytelling, the Show Up landing page includes a template for telling a library story and a form to submit library stories, photos and videos to ALA for use in publications and referrals for journalists. The campaign offers a range of other free resources, from social media assets (hashtag #ForOurLibraries) to a guide for setting up a congressional tour of a local library to a letter-to-the-editor writing toolkit.

ALA shows up for members with new webinar series

As demand increased for information about the impact of the 2024 elections on library policy, PPA created a Show Up For Our Libraries webinar series. Each of the four sessions in the series welcomed hundreds of participants. COL Chair Ed Garcia served as the emcee for these webinars. In addition, PPA presented at two ALA virtual town hall meetings, held two op-ed writing webinars for AASL, and supported PLA in a June webinar on libraries hosting legislator visits. The Show Up webinar series continues later in the summer, following the ALA Annual Conference.

ALA fights executive order to dismantle IMLS

A March 14 [executive order of the President](#) effectively began the process of eliminating the nonpartisan Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), the only federal agency dedicated to the nation's libraries and museums. ALA swiftly issued a [statement](#) by President Cindy Hohl and an action alert calling on Congress members to oppose the order. Within a week, ALA recorded more than 70,000 contacts to Congress. Within two weeks, more than 10,000 advocates were added to PPA's action network.

ALA has since worked on many levels to restore IMLS grants and staff, rally support for federal library funding and protect federal programs that advance digital opportunity through libraries of all kinds. For a timeline of milestones related to ALA action on IMLS, visit ala.org/imls-lawsuit.

ALA joins IMLS Coalition

Earlier this year, ALA joined with a coalition of organizations across the library, vendor, arts and humanities spectrum in an informal alliance defending IMLS and its library and museum programs. The alliance continues to meet on a regular basis and share information. In addition, PPA staff presented at an Arts Alliance webinar, providing an update on what is happening at IMLS and why the larger arts community must be engaged.

ALA sues President and members of the Trump Administration

With IMLS staff having been placed on administrative leave and many IMLS grantees notified of grant cancellations, on April 7 ALA and the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) asked a federal judge on April 7 to halt the dismantling of IMLS and filed [a motion for a preliminary injunction in a lawsuit](#) that was initiated on behalf of ALA and AFSCME by Democracy Forward and co-counsel Gair Gallo Eberhard LLP. On May 1, a federal court [granted a temporary restraining order](#) to halt the administration's gutting of IMLS. The ruling temporarily prevented any further actions that would affect staff or grants, including the mass layoffs of nearly all IMLS staff that were originally scheduled to begin May 4.

On May 14, In a separate lawsuit brought by the attorneys general of 21 states and filed in Rhode Island, a federal judge granted a preliminary injunction to reverse all steps the agency previously had taken to implement the executive order, restoring IMLS employees and contractors who were placed on leave or terminated, ordering the administration not to cancel grants, and to resume processing of payments to grantees in the 21 plaintiff states. The government has taken steps to implement the preliminary injunction, including reinstating IMLS staff and restoring the grants, it had cancelled to recipients in the 21 plaintiff states. As Illinois is one of the plaintiffs, ALA's IMLS grants were reinstated. This is a temporary - not a final ruling, and the government has appealed, asking for a stay of the ruling pending that appeal.

Meanwhile, the DC judge denied a preliminary injunction in ALA's case. While this means that no court currently has required IMLS to restore grants in the other states that are not party to the Rhode Island case, IMLS is reportedly releasing LSTA Grants to States funding to all states for fiscal year 2025.

In early June, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) concluded that the Trump Administration violated the Impoundment Control Act of 1974 (ICA) by withholding grants funds through IMLS. ALA's lawsuit was cited as evidence in this decision.

A briefing on ALA's case is not expected until September, at the earliest. As the courts deliberate on Trump's attempts to shutter IMLS, it is critical that Congress includes funding it in Fiscal Year (FY) 2026—otherwise, IMLS will not be able to operate, regardless of the outcome of the court cases.

ALA Congressional Fly-In meets with perfect timing

ALA's annual Congressional Fly-In, which lays the groundwork for ALA's annual #FundLibraries campaign, was a smaller, condensed version of previous events and took place with fortuitous timing. Less than one week before virtual Fly-In meetings began, the White House called for the dismantling of IMLS. Two days before advocates gathered for in-person meetings in Washington, D.C., the acting director of IMLS placed most staff on administrative leave, and grant cancellation notices followed shortly thereafter. Advocates participated in virtual briefings and an in-person half-day briefing session hosted by COL Chair Ed Garcia in preparation for visits on the Hill. ALA President Cindy Hohl attended and offered remarks.

Advocates participated in 73 in-person meetings and nine virtual meetings that focused on protecting federal funding for libraries, digital opportunity and defense of IMLS. Congressional meetings were prioritized with appropriations committee members and House/Senate leadership, and advocates were identified according to those targets. Feedback about the Congressional meetings from staff and advocates was overwhelmingly positive. Advocates reported feeling prepared for their meetings, even with the rapidly evolving situation at IMLS.

At an evening event, former FCC Chair Jessica Rosenworcel was honored with a framed copy of the tribute resolution introduced by COL and passed by ALA Council at LibLearnX in Phoenix.

ALA launches FY 2026 #FundLibraries campaign

On April 17, ALA [launched the FY 2026 #FundLibraries campaign](#), mobilizing advocates to urge Congress members to sign “Dear Appropriator” letters in support of the \$211 million Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA), the IMLS funding mechanism for libraries, as well as separate letters for the \$30 million Innovative Approaches to Literacy (IAL) program, which provides resources from the Department of Education for addressing literacy through school libraries. Similarly, while courts debate the future of the Department of Education, it’s vital that Congress continue funding for IAL. Each letter requesting level funding in FY 2026, Senator Jack Reed (D-RI) and Representatives Jim McGovern (D-MA) and Don Bacon (R-NE) shepherded the library letters through Congress this year. The LSTA letters garnered signatures from 123 Representatives and 42 Senators. The IAL letters received 86 signatures in the House and 33 in the Senate.

The success of the Dear Appropriator letters sends Congress a strong message to support libraries, even as the president’s budget calls for elimination of funding for LSTA and IAL, as well as cutting support for education, arts and the humanities.

Since the #FundLibraries campaign was launched, ALA has sent more than a million emails to advocates, and advocates in every congressional district as well as DC, Guam, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands, took tens of thousands of actions (writing emails, calling and meeting with Congress members).

Congress is now putting their 12 spending bills together. PPA will continue to activate members in key Congressional districts and across the nation to keep the pressure on Congress to reject the President’s budget and fully fund libraries.

The 2018 MLSA authorizes spending levels through October 1, 2025. However, Congress can continue to provide funding - and if funded, IMLS can continue to operate - past this time. Congress has continued to fund IMLS during prior lapses in authorization: for instance, the prior MLSA authorized spending levels through October 2016, and the current MLSA was not signed into law until December 2018, more than two years later. In fact, Congress has continued to fund numerous agencies and programs whose authorizations expired decades ago.

ALA endorses legislation to improve library districts’ access to federal funding opportunities

In April, a bipartisan group of Representatives introduced H.R. 2766, the Special District Fairness and Accessibility Act. In June, a bipartisan group of Senators introduced its companion bill, S. 2014. [ALA endorsed the bills](#), which would make it easier for special districts, including library districts, to access federal funding for local governments. Nationwide, around 1,400 public library systems are organized as library districts, representing 15% of public library systems nationally. ALA supported similar legislation last year, which passed the House but did not receive a Senate vote before the end of the Congress and, thus, expired.

BROADBAND AND DIGITAL OPPORTUNITY

ALA responds to termination of Digital Equity Act

In May, the Trump administration suddenly cancelled the congressionally authorized Digital Equity Act grant programs. In a statement, ALA President Cindy Hohl said, “ALA is gravely concerned about the abrupt and illegal end of Digital Equity Act programs and funding. Broadband is a human right.” Part of the 2021 Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (or Bipartisan Infrastructure Law), the \$2.75 billion

historic investment was a part of a coordinated effort to provide high-speed broadband, along with the necessary skills and technology, that communities across the U.S. ALA members worked hard to advocate for the passage of the pandemic recovery funding. PPA will continue to monitor the Digital Equity Act program developments and will share regular updates on our [Digital Equity Resources webpage](#), including [FAQs](#). PPA also encourages members to [reach out to us](#) with information about how these cancellations impact their library.

ALA fights resolution overturning new E-Rate hotspots program

Despite coordinated advocacy efforts of numerous other community anchor institutions, on May 8 the Senate, in a partisan split, passed a Congressional Review Act (CRA) resolution to overturn immediately, the E-Rate hotspots program adopted by the FCC in 2024. PPA staff held numerous meetings on the CRA with lawmakers and congressional staff, including at ALA's Fly-In, and ALA advocates sent more than 10,000 messages to Congress expressing support for the program. The CRA is now circulating in the House. ALA issued [two advocacy alerts](#) rallying advocates to tell their Representatives about the need for hotspots and urging them to oppose the CRA.

ALA has been deeply invested in developing policy to expand E-Rate funding to cover Wi-Fi hotspots since former FCC Chair Jessica Rosenworcel first [proposed the Learn Without Limits program at the 2023](#) ALA Annual Conference. PPA developed resources and held a webinar to support libraries in applying for the program. Approximately 8,000 libraries and schools submitted applications for over 20,000 hotspot connections during the funding window.

ALA fights for universal service, E-Rate in the Supreme Court

In January, ALA [filed an amicus brief in the U.S. Supreme Court](#) affirming the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) essential Universal Service Fund (USF) and the E-rate Program that helps power broadband-enabled services and access through U.S. public libraries and schools. More than half of all public libraries each year apply for E-rate funding. [The brief](#), which includes stories from public libraries, is part of the record the Supreme Court will review in two consolidated cases (24-354 and 24-422) that will determine the future of vital funding for universal broadband access. The FCC and the Schools, Health & Libraries Broadband (SHLB) Coalition, of which ALA is a founding and active member, with other public interest groups are the [named parties](#) defending USF.

On March 26, the first day of oral arguments, Washington-area ALA staff and members participated in a [rally on Capitol Hill](#), "Keep Our Communities Connected," to show support for E-Rate and other USF programs. Baltimore County Public Library CEO and Immediate past PLA President Sonia Alcántara-Antoine spoke on behalf of libraries. Other speakers included Senator Ed Markey (D-MA) and FCC Commissioner Anna Gomez. A decision on the E-Rate case is expected before the July Fourth holiday.

COPYRIGHT, LICENSING & COMPETITION

Librarian of Congress, Register of Copyrights fired

In an email on May 8, President Trump dismissed Dr. Carla Hayden, a past ALA President and lifetime ALA member, who was confirmed as Librarian of Congress since 2016. In a [statement](#), ALA President Cindy Hohl said that the "abrupt and unjust dismissal is an insult to the scope and breadth of work Dr. Hayden has undertaken in her role." Days later, the Trump administration fired Register of Copyrights Shira Perlmutter. In a [statement](#), President Hohl called the Register's termination "unlawful" and noted Register Perlmutter's work with the library community on the U.S. implementation of the Marrakesh Treaty. ALA has met with several Congressional offices to express our concerns about the firings and the need for Congressional responses.

PPA ADVOCACY ACTIVITIES

ALA promotes civic engagement

Every year is an election year, and ALA is proud to shine a spotlight on the critical role of libraries in getting communities [Reader Voter Ready](#). ALA is encouraging libraries to register for [National Voter Registration Day \(NVRD\) 2025](#), which takes place on September 16 this year. As a longtime partner of NonprofitVOTE and National Voter Registration Day, ALA is encouraging libraries a nonpartisan civic holiday celebrating the fundamental right and responsibility of American citizenship. Libraries that join NVRD as [community partners](#) will receive guidance, promotional materials, and access to online learning opportunities to support voter registration and education activities. Community partners agree to be nonpartisan, inclusive, and aware of their state's voter registration laws.

TAKE ACTION

You can subscribe to [ALA's advocacy alerts](#) to take targeted actions at key moments on federal policy. We only ask you to act when your advocacy is needed most. <http://ala.org/takeaction>

Use the Show Up For Our Libraries year-round advocacy resources (ala.org/showup)

Fund the fight by renewing your ALA membership, urge colleagues to join and inviting non-librarians to participate in ALA's public supporter program (<https://ilovelibraries.org/>)

Also, if you want the latest library policy news and updates, please follow PPA on Bluesky at [@librarypolicy.bsky.social](#).

Thank you to Shauntee Burns-Simpson, Deborah Doyle, Dr. Ursula Gorham, Katherine Lester, Kent Oliver, Jana Stevenson, and Sherry Neal, who are cycling off this year for all their contributions.

Thank you also to the incredible PPA Team for all their hard work and dedication under exceedingly difficult conditions, especially our staff liaisons Kevin Maher and Marleen Coleman.

This is my final report as the Chair of the Committee on Legislation. Serving in this role for three years has been one of the honors of my professional life. Thank you to the PPA team and all the member leaders that I have had the honor to serve with during my time on the committee.

Submitted by

Ed Garcia

Chair, Committee on Legislation

Memorial Resolution Honoring Rep. Raúl Grijalva

Whereas, the library community lost a valued Library Champion on March 13, 2025, with the passing of Representative Raúl Grijalva;

Whereas, Rep. Raúl Grijalva represented the residents of Arizona in the U.S. House of Representatives from 2003-2025;

Whereas, Raúl Grijalva was a member of the Pima County (AZ) Board of Supervisors from 1989-2002;

Whereas, as a member of the Pima County (AZ) Board of Supervisors, he was a champion of the Tucson Pima Public Library, and spearheaded construction of new library branches in distressed areas of the city including the Quincy-Douglas branch;

Whereas, as a member of the Pima County (AZ) Board of Supervisors he also successfully lobbied for a property tax increase to support the local library system;

Whereas, as a champion of literacy and equal access to school libraries and school librarians, he introduced the [Right to Read Act](#) in the 117th and 118th Congresses;

Whereas, he introduced the [2018 reauthorization](#) of the Museum and Library Services Act during the 115th Congress. The bill amended and reauthorized through FY2023 the Museum and Library Services Act and provided funding for library services and technology act through FY2023. The bill expanded the definition of "library" and "museum" to include a tribal library or museum and expanded the services museums are authorized to provide;

Whereas, he led the annual appropriations request letter for the Library Services and Technology Act;

Whereas, he introduced the Strengthening Kids' Interest in Learning and Libraries Act (SKILLS) multiple times which was a predecessor bill to the Right to Read Act;

Whereas, he championed the inclusion of libraries in [Student Aid](#) and Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2009;

Whereas, as a long-serving member of the House Committee on Education and Labor, Rep. Grijalva spoke publicly against the harms of book banning in an April 26, 2023 [op-ed](#) published in the *Tucson Sentinel*;

Whereas, he was awarded with the [Public Service Award](#) in 2011 by the Association of Library Trustees, Advocates, Friends and Foundations (now United for Libraries);

Whereas, the ALA Council passed a [resolution](#) thanking Rep. Grijalva and other members of congress for the 2018 reauthorization of the Museum and Library Services Act;

Whereas, he was awarded with the [Crystal Apple Award](#) in 2023 by the American Association of School Librarians (AASL);

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

1. Recognizes the significant contributions and accomplishments of Representative Raúl Grijalva on behalf of all libraries and their communities; and
2. Extends its sincerest condolences to his family and friends.

Moved by the Committee on Legislation

Endorsed by the Arizona Library Association

Endorsed by the American Association of School Librarians (AASL)

American Library Association (ALA)

Committee on Legislation

Federal Legislative and Public Policy Agenda for 2025

Federal policymakers must uphold the programs and policies that enable libraries to meet their communities' needs for digital opportunity, information access, education, learning, and skills, while protecting the intellectual freedom and civil rights of library users and workers. We will remain steadfast in defending libraries, library workers, and the freedom to read, against political threats, including any attempts to criminalize the work of librarianship.

ALA's Committee on Legislation encourages ALA members and library supporters to advocate on the following library priorities in 2025. ALA will monitor and engage on these and other [federal issues](#) that affect libraries, and will join with partners and coalitions to protect and advance libraries of all types.

To meet this moment, it is essential that ALA members and library supporters continue to stand up for libraries. Please join in supporting ALA's advocacy by [signing up for advocacy alerts](#), [joining ALA or renewing your membership](#), [donating to ALA](#), and using [ALA's advocacy resources](#) to build effective relationships with decision makers.

Funding and Support

[Preserving federal funding](#) for library services is essential to ensuring that every community in America has strong libraries. Key issues for 2025:

Dedicated library programs: Protect key federal agencies and programs, including:

- The Institute of Museum and Library Services, including the Library Services and Technology Act, and in reauthorizing the Museum and Library Services Act;
- The Department of Education, including Innovative Approaches to Literacy and support for [school libraries](#);
- Library facilities that are modern, accessible, energy-efficient, and resilient to extreme weather; and
- National library programs, including the Library of Congress, National Library of Medicine, National Agricultural Library, and the Federal Depository Library Program.

Library-eligible programs: Sustain agencies and programs that support libraries' roles in:

- K-12 and early education, including in reauthorizing the Every Student Succeeds Act;

- Higher education, including reauthorizing the Higher Education Act;
- Economic and workforce development, including reauthorizing the [Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act](#); and
- Other crucial community services, including through the National Endowment for the Humanities, Community Development Block Grants, and other applicable programs.

Library workers: Promote pathways to the profession and support for library workers, including through Public Service Loan Forgiveness.

IMLS Director: Ensure that any nominee to serve as the next Director of the Institute of Museum and Library Services is well-qualified and will uphold the agency's crucial work.

Broadband and Digital Opportunity

Libraries in all parts of the country must be able to serve their users with fast and affordable [broadband](#), technology access, and digital skills training. Key issues for 2025:

E-rate: Protect the Universal Service Fund. Preserve E-rate as a flexible program for meeting libraries' local technology needs.

Internet access and digital opportunity: Preserve and expand resources for libraries to support Internet access and digital opportunity.

Content access and liability: Maintain [net neutrality](#) protections. Preserve liability protections for libraries, including Section 230 of the Communications Decency Act.

Copyright, Licensing, and Competition

Libraries rely on balanced and flexible [copyright policy](#) to enable vital library services. ALA supports a modern copyright system with effective user rights and limitations and exceptions to copyright. Additionally, libraries rely on fair licenses and market practices in order to provide access to digital content such as [e-books](#). Key issues for 2025:

E-books and digital content: Prevent unfair and anti-competitive practices that limit libraries' ability to meet their users' reading and information needs. Preserve libraries' rights under copyright limitations and exceptions.

Copyright Office: Maintain the Librarian of Congress' authority to manage and oversee the Copyright Office.

Government Information and Services

ALA supports policies that assist libraries in providing no-fee permanent public access to [government information](#) and services. Key issues for 2025:

Federal Depository Library Program: Advance the [Federal Depository Library Program](#) and update its statutory authorities.

Public access to research: Ensure public access to publicly funded research and data.