



Every Voice Counts Make Yours Matter



For more information contact:
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Be a Library Advocate

Librarians are libraries' strongest advocates. Help Congress understand how health sciences libraries support healthcare, education, and research and make a difference in the everyday lives of their constituents. This knowledge supports decision-making for funding library programs and services.

Contacting Congress

Find Your Representative:

www.house.gov or call the
Capitol Switchboard (DC): 202/224-3121

Find Your Senator:

www.senate.gov or call the
Capitol Switchboard (DC): 202/224-3121

Develop Your Message:

When MLA's Governmental Relations Committee sends out an Action Alert urging you to contact your federal legislators about a specific issue, look for the following information in the alert:

- Background Information
- Talking Points
- Specific Actions
- Deadline for responding
- Links to relevant information

Send Your Message:

The most effective ways to send your message are:

- **Written message:** Email is faster; US Mail takes weeks due to security screening
- **Phone calls:** Ask for the staff member who handles health care issues; have your message prepared before the call, and be prepared to leave a message
- **Meet in person:** Invite Congressional staff for a tour of the library and an overview of programs and services, including those supported through federal funding.

Information about a Specific Bill

<http://thomas.loc.gov/>

Thomas.gov allows you to search for bill text for current and past sessions of Congress, bill summary and status, committee websites (e.g., Appropriations Committee), house and senate roll call votes, and more.

MLA's Position and Actions Taken

www.mlanet.org/government/

MLA's public policy website provides up-to-date information on specific issues, including letters and statements the association has made.