

March 22, 2013

The Honorable John Cornyn (R-TX)
517 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Cornyn:

The Medical Library Association (MLA) thanks you for introducing S. 350, the “Fair Access to Science and Technology Research Act” (FASTR) and to express MLA’s strong support for this legislation. MLA works to promote access to quality health information for the health care community and the public. We maintain that public access to information is vital to a healthy nation, improved research, and its translation into practice. This expansion of public access across Federal agencies will improve access, dissemination, and use of manuscripts of scientific and scholarly research funded by these agencies, and preserve this information for researchers, students, educators, innovators, and the public for generations to come. We also are pleased to see that FASTR would facilitate the use of new technologies, including computational technologies such as text and data mining which will stimulate the efficiency and efficacy of the research process.

This bill will provide for Federal agencies to develop public access policies relating to research conducted by employees of that agency or from funds administered by that agency. It will enable researchers to realize new discoveries more quickly and encourage a more open exchange of information among the research community, accelerating the translation of research results into innovative new services and products. It also will stimulate the creation of new jobs and support the economic growth of our nation. Because discovery is an ongoing process, we believe it is critical that the latest information and research be made freely and openly available as rapidly as possible to scientists, healthcare providers, and the public—a goal that can be accomplished through S. 350.

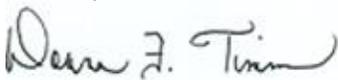
Because research in other disciplines that support medical research (e.g., Veterans Administration, Department of Defense) is increasingly relevant to biomedicine, broadening public access policies across agencies will enable the health sciences library community to support better patient care, biomedical research, education and health information technology.

MLA played a strong leadership role in supporting the development of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) Public Access Policy, and we affirm our support of expansion of public access policies and disciplinary repositories of published articles across the Federal government. As a result of the NIH Public Access Policy, more than 6,000 manuscripts are deposited into PubMed Central each month facilitating readership by hundreds of thousands of researchers and millions of Americans. The National Library of Medicine estimates that on a typical weekday, more than 700,000 unique users access Pubmed Central and retrieve more than one million articles. MLA has observed firsthand the significant benefit of providing public access to publications arising from NIH-funded research including its positive benefit-cost ratio, return on investment, and efficacy and efficiency to fuel new research, discoveries, and therapies.

Because research in other disciplines that support medical research (e.g., Veterans Administration) is increasingly relevant to biomedicine, broadening public access policies across agencies will enable the medical library community to support better patient care, biomedical research, education and health information technology.

For all these reasons, we thank you for introducing the “Fair Access to Science and Technology Act.” The health sciences library community stands ready to support your efforts to secure passage of this timely and important legislation.

Sincerely,



Donna Timm, Chair
Governmental Relations Committee
Medical Library Association

March 22, 2013

The Honorable Ron Wyden (D-OR)
221 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Wyden:

The Medical Library Association (MLA) thanks you for introducing S. 350, the “Fair Access to Science and Technology Research Act” (FASTR) and to express MLA’s strong support for this legislation. MLA works to promote access to quality health information for the health care community and the public. We maintain that public access to information is vital to a healthy nation, improved research, and its translation into practice. This expansion of public access across Federal agencies will improve access, dissemination, and use of manuscripts of scientific and scholarly research funded by these agencies, and preserve this information for researchers, students, educators, innovators, and the public for generations to come. We also are pleased to see that FASTR would facilitate the use of new technologies, including computational technologies such as text and data mining which will stimulate the efficiency and efficacy of the research process.

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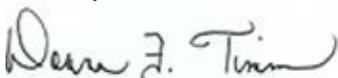
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Donna Timm, Chair
Governmental Relations Committee
Medical Library Association

March 22, 2013

The Honorable Mike Doyle (D-PA, 14th)
239 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Doyle:

The Medical Library Association (MLA) thanks you for introducing H.R. 708, the “Fair Access to Science and Technology Research Act” (FASTR) and to express MLA’s strong support for this legislation. MLA works to promote access to quality health information for the health care community and the public. We maintain that public access to information is vital to a healthy nation, improved research, and its translation into practice. This expansion of public access across Federal agencies will improve access, dissemination, and use of manuscripts of scientific and scholarly research funded by these agencies, and preserve this information for researchers, students, educators, innovators, and the public for generations to come. We also are pleased to see that FASTR would facilitate the use of new technologies, including computational technologies such as text and data mining which will stimulate the efficiency and efficacy of the research process.

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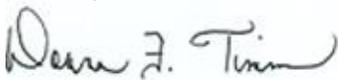
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Donna Timm, Chair
Governmental Relations Committee
Medical Library Association

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March 22, 2013

The Honorable Zoe Lofgren (D-CA, 19th)
1401 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Lofgren:

This bill will provide for Federal agencies to develop public access policies relating to research conducted by employees of that agency or from funds administered by that agency. It will enable researchers to realize new discoveries more quickly and encourage a more open exchange of information among the research community, accelerating the translation of research results into innovative new services and products. It also will stimulate the creation of new jobs and support the economic growth of our nation. Because discovery is an ongoing process, we believe it is critical that the latest information and research be made freely and openly available as rapidly as possible to scientists, healthcare providers, and the public—a goal that can be accomplished through H.R. 708.

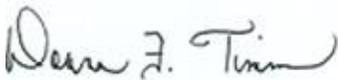
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Governmental Relations Committee
Medical Library Association

March 22, 2013

The Honorable Kevin Yoder (R-KS, 3rd)
215 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Yoder:

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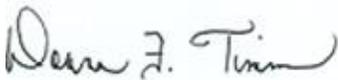
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