ALA WASHINGTON OFFICE

... THE VOICE OF LIBRARIES IN WASHINGTON FOR OVER 70 YEARS
THE INTRICATE MECHANICS OF GOVERNMENT
LOGIC ...
LOGIC . . .

. . . PERSUASION
KEY LIBRARY LEGISLATIVE ISSUES IN THE 114th CONGRESS

APPROPRIATIONS — Support full funding of $186.6 million for the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) in the FY 2016 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill and maintain level funding of $25 million for the Innovative Approaches to Literacy (IAL) program. LSTA helps target library services to people of many geographic, cultural, and socioeconomic backgrounds, to disabled individuals, and to people with limited literacy skills. Half of all IAL funds provide school library materials to low-income communities.

SCHOOL LIBRARIES — Reauthorize and revise the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) to require that every student have access to an “effective school library program,” defined in statute to require that: every school library be staffed by a certified librarian; equipped with up-to-date materials and technology; and enriched by a curriculum jointly developed by a grantee school’s librarians and classroom teachers. ALA also strongly supports permitting state program funds to be used to recruit and train school librarians.

PRIVACY & SURVEILLANCE — Restore the Constitutional privacy rights of library users and all Americans lost to overbroad, invasive and insufficiently “checked and balanced” provisions of the: USA PATRIOT, Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act Amendments (FISA), and Electronic Communications Privacy Acts (ECPA). Librarians have long defended patrons against government attempts to obtain patrons’ borrowing and internet use records without a warrant believing that liberty need and must not be sacrificed to security. Building on the USA FREEDOM Act, ALA strongly supports immediate passage of the ECPA Amendments Act of 2015 and rapid reform of Sec. 702 of FISA.

GOVERNMENT INFORMATION — Pass “FASTR,” the Fair Access to Science and Technology Research (S. 779/H.R. 1477), the FOIA Improvement Act (S. 337) and statutorily ensure public access to unique collections held by the National Technical Information Service (NTIS). ALA is strongly committed to: no-fee access to all government-funded information and to robust support for all federal libraries and archives; maximum public access to information, government transparency and accountability; and funding for a single repository for the unique scientific and technical collections now held by the NTIS sufficient to permit this vital data to continue to be fully preserved and made universally available to the public on a cost-recovery basis.
PRIVACY, SURVEILLANCE, CYBERSECURITY & ENCRYPTION
USA PATRIOT ACT
CAREFUL. THEY'RE NOT JUST ANY LIBRARIANS. THEY'RE CONNECTICUT LIBRARIANS.
The Switch - Librarians won’t stay quiet about government surveillance

By Andrea Peterson October 3, 2014

“SECTION 215” REAUTHORIZATION
Librarians Versus the NSA

Your local library is on the front lines against government surveillance.

By Zoë Carpenter

May 25, 2015

USA FREEDOM ACT
Cyber bill could let feds spy on library users, advocate warns

By Cory Bargell - 10/14/15 5:39 PM EDT

Librarians are warning that a cybersecurity bill about to hit the Senate floor could help the government spy on people using library computers.

On Wednesday, the head of the nation’s largest advocate for library users warned that a cybersecurity bill about to hit the Senate floor could help the government spy on people using library computers.

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ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS PRIVACY ACT
ENCRYPTION / “BACK DOORS”
“Before I write my name on the board, I’ll need to know how you’re planning to use that data.”

STUDENT PRIVACY / “FERPA”