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White House Conference on Library and Information Services: Early Stages (1979-1985): Correspondence 10

Elinor M. Hashim

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National Commission
on Libraries and Information Science

TONY HARVEY
IS THIS YOUR
area?
AP

20 May 1986

The Honorable Charles McC. Mathias, Jr.
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Mathias:

Please join your colleagues in cosponsoring S. J. Res. 112, which authorizes the President to convene a 1989 White House Conference on Library and Information Services. To date, 21 Democrats and Republicans have cosponsored this legislation in the U.S. Senate and 110 in the House of Representatives.

The urgency of holding a 1989 Conference is well documented in the enclosed statements delivered at a recent Congressional hearing. Mr. William G. Asp's testimony includes the Final Report of the White House Conference Preliminary Design group, which outlines three overarching Conference themes:

- Library and Information Services:
- for Productivity,
 - for Literacy, and
 - for Democracy.

The library/information services community throughout our country has a critical role to play in increasing productivity, eradicating illiteracy and assisting all levels of government. It is important that the second White House Conference plan for and organize increased levels of service to the public, to business and to all levels of government in the face of accelerated technological change. It must also identify user needs which will serve as the basis for realistic planning for library and information services in the "Information Age" and as the 21st century approaches. Libraries should serve their communities as information resource centers.

There has been progress in implementing portions of 55 of the 64 resolutions of the first White House Conference on Library and Information Services held in 1979. Over 100,000 people in 57 States and territories participated in the preconferences and the White House Conference. It has made a positive difference in information services in the '80s, especially at the State and local levels.

Page 18 of the Preliminary Design Group's report addresses alternatives for financing the conference. These alternatives need to be discussed fully in Congressional hearings. It is envisioned by NCLIS that the second alternative, namely a combination of funds from federal, state, and private sources will ultimately be the most viable alternative.

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To cosponsor this bill, please telephone Mr. Alexander Crary of the Senate Education Subcommittee at 224-7666. For additional information about this bill, please contact Mrs. Mary Alice Hedge Reszetar, NCLIS Associate Director at 382-0840.

We deeply appreciate your continued support for library matters.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Elinor M. Hashim".

Elinor M. Hashim
Chairman

Enclosures

EMH/cwr