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Library Services and Construction Act (1988-1991): Correspondence 05

Bill Bradley

Claiborne Pell

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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND HUMAN RESOURCES WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6300

June 7, 1990

Honorable Tom Harkin Chairman Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Committee on Appropriations 186 Dirksen Senate Office Building Washington, DC 20510

Dear Tom:

As you know, the President has made his recommendations for FY 1991 appropriations for the Library Services and Construction Act. Included in his proposal is the total elimination of funds for Title I and Title II programs under the Act. We are writing to urge your consideration of the full reinstatement of these important funds.

Title I of the Act provides critical library services for a number of special needs populations. In the past, Title I funds have ensured library access for the blind and physically handicapped, the institutionalized and the elderly. They have supported literacy projects for both English and non-English speakers as well as provided funds for popular summer reading programs for children.

Title II of the Act provides monies for library construction and renovation. Currently, the demand for such funds far exceeds availability. Elimination of this program, along with the private matching funds it generates, would deal a serious blow to the expansion and upgrading of library facilities throughout the country.

We emphatically endorse the reinstatement of LSCA Title I and Title II funds in the FY 1991 appropriation as a reaffirmation of the long-standing federal commitment to our nation's libraries. These institutions play a crucial role in the intellectual and cultural life of our nation and we can not afford to weaken the services they provide.

Warm regards.

Bill Bradley United States Senator

Ever sincerely, Claiborne

United States Senator