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Library Services and Construction Act: Testimonies  
(1994)

Education: National Endowment for the Arts and  
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1994

# Library Services and Construction Act: Testimonies (1994): Correspondence 04

Paul Simon

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**Authors**

Paul Simon, Jeff Bingaman, Max Baucus, Conrad Burns, Carol Moseley-Braun, Claiborne Pell, Paul Sarbanes, John H. Chafee, Richard Shelby, and Thomas Daschle

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1302

July 14, 1994

The Honorable Tom Harkin  
Appropriation Subcommittee on  
Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education  
Washington, DC 20510

We are writing to urge you to maintain funding for the Department of Education Library Programs for Fiscal Year (FY) 1995 at the FY 1994 funding levels. As you know, the House funded library programs at \$115,996,000, which is \$30,313,000 less than FY 94. These fiscal times are tight, however, this modest assistance to libraries is imperative to meet the National Education Goals and to provide equitable access to the National Information Infrastructure (NII).

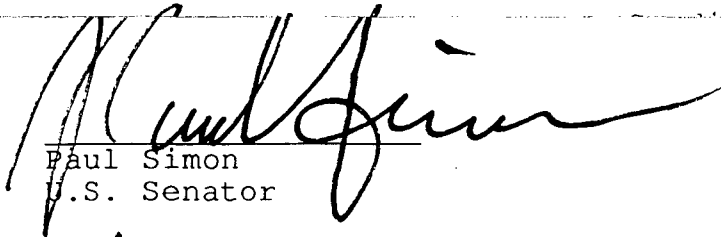
We spend less than one/one-hundredth of one percent of the federal budget on library programs. This works out to about 57 cents, or about the cost of a cup of coffee. For this small investment, we have expanded information access to rural areas and for people with disabilities, taught adults and their families how to read, provided libraries with the ability to share resources and information, and provided expanded library career training opportunities for minorities.

While we should be proud of our success, libraries are continuing to face difficulties. For example, a recent National Commission on Libraries and Information Sciences study highlights difficulties libraries face with regard to NII. Only 20 percent of libraries can access the internet; with disparities existing between urban and rural areas. Moreover, libraries from coast to coast are cutting hours or closing their doors for good. For example, in Massachusetts, 20 library branches closed.

Federal funding for libraries has been cut, curbed, and even eliminated over the years, and we didn't see people filling the streets to protest. But, limiting and curbing access to information says something about us as a nation.

You have been a strong supporter of libraries in the past, and understand their importance. We are asking that you continue that support by funding the library programs at their FY 94 levels.

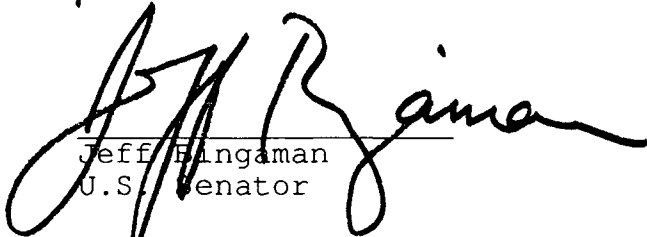
Thank you for your attention to our request. Our best wishes.



Paul Simon  
U.S. Senator



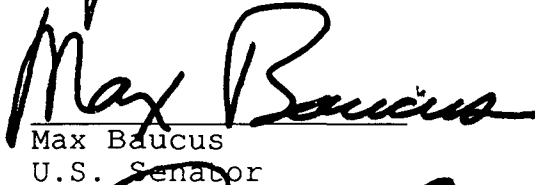
Claiborne Pell  
U.S. Senator




Jeff Bingaman  
U.S. Senator



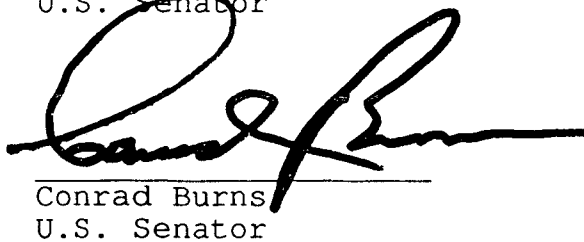
Paul Sarbanes  
U.S. Senator



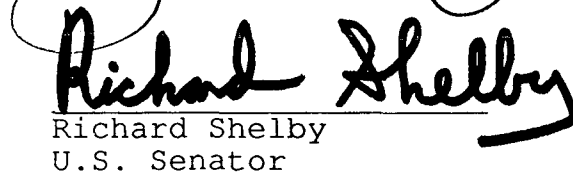
Max Baucus  
U.S. Senator



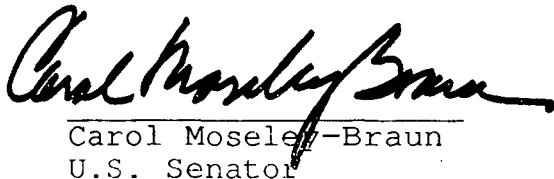
John H. Chafee  
U.S. Senator



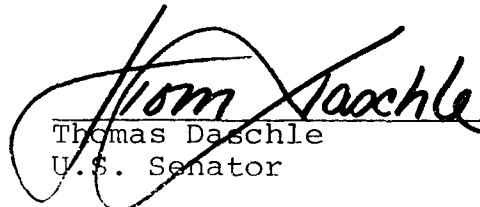
Conrad Burns  
U.S. Senator



Richard Shelby  
U.S. Senator



Carol Moseley-Braun  
U.S. Senator



Thomas Daschle  
U.S. Senator