

July 17, 2007

The Honorable Jesse Jackson, Jr.  
Member, House Labor-HHS Appropriations Subcommittee  
2419 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington DC, 20515

Dear Congressman Jackson,

Thank you for your continued leadership and commitment to support healthcare issues.

As the FY 2008 appropriations process moves forward the, Medical Library Association (MLA) and the Association of Academic Health Sciences Libraries (AAHSL) would like to express our gratitude for the increased support currently being sought for our nation's health and education programs. We are thankful for the funding increase provided for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) in the House's FY 2008 Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations bill. While we are thankful for any additional funding for NIH in FY 2008, the National Library of Medicine (NLM) has been particularly hard hit by recent years of level funding. Currently, the Senate Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations bill provides a more favorable allocation for NLM, and we would encourage you to consider adopting the Senate funding level when the two bills go to conference.

We are pleased that the House Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations bill includes a provision that will require all investigators funded by NIH to submit an electronic version of their final, peer-reviewed manuscripts into NLM's PubMed Central within 12 months of acceptance for publication. Mandating participation in PubMed Central will greatly improve access to vital healthcare information. We look forward to passage of the final FY 2008 Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations bill so that this beneficial policy can be implemented in a manner consistent with copyright law.

We hope that the additional funding being pursued in the FY 2008 House Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations bill is indicative of a renewed commitment by appropriators that will continue for years to come. We look forward to working with you during future appropriations cycles to ensure that new funding is allocated to best serve the needs of the medical research community.

Thank you again for your hard work and support during the FY 2008 appropriations cycle. We commend the members of the House Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations Subcommittee for making this investment in our nation's federal health and education programs a high priority.

MLA is a nonprofit, educational organization with more than 4,500 health sciences information professional members worldwide. Founded in 1898, MLA provides lifelong educational opportunities, supports a knowledgebase of health information research, and works with a global network of partners to promote the importance of quality information for improved health to the health care community and the public.

AAHSL is composed of the directors of the libraries of 142 accredited American and Canadian medical schools that belong to the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC). AAHSL's goals are to promote excellence in academic health sciences libraries and to ensure that the next generation of health practitioners is trained in information-seeking skills that enhance the quality of healthcare delivery.

Sincerely,

*Mark Funk Elaine Russo Martin*

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