

## **Joint MLA/Association of Academic Health Sciences Libraries (AAHSL) Legislative Task Force**

### **Executive Summary**

- The task force held its 2019 annual meeting on April 2-3, 2019 in Washington, DC to conduct business and meet with Congressional staff.
- Support for NLM, NIH, and IMLS funding were the primary focus for these Capitol Hill visits.
- Recommended keeping the Agency for Health Research Quality open and funded at—at least the FY19 levels and not consolidating it into the National Institute for Research on Safety and Quality.
- Urged restoring the Federal Communications Commission's Open Internet Order and its net neutrality protections.

### **Congressional activity and legislation is vast and requires the Task Force to establish priorities that focus on legislation most relevant to MLA and AAHSL.**

Following are 2018/2019 legislative priorities.

- NLM Funding, at least \$457.4 million in FY2020, a 3.5% increase
- IMLS Funding, S. 3530 and H.R. 6988 reauthorized services through 2025
- NIH Funding, at least \$41.6 billion, a 6.4% increase (+2.5 billion) • Save the Internet of 2019, S. 682 and H.R. 1644
- Public Access to Information Supported through Federal Funding MLA Group Annual Reports

### **Activities**

At the April 2019 meeting, the task force met with invited guests from National Library of Medicine Dina Paltoo, Asst. Director for Policy Development, Kathryn Funk, Program Manager, PubMed Central, NLM, and Amanda Wilson, Head, NNLM Coordination Office (All of Us Research Program). NLM Fellow Rebecca Goodwin was also present. Tannaz Rasouli, Senior Director, Public Policy & Strategic Outreach from Association of American Medical Colleges also met with the task force. The purpose of these briefings is to prepare for the next day's Hill meetings. On April 3, three teams of task force members participated in 30 face-to-face constituent meetings organized by MLA staff and dropped off facts and data packets to about 60 additional offices. Issues addressed included securing the highest possible funding level for the National Library of Medicine and the National Institutes of Health for Fiscal Year 2020, urging Congress to oppose the Administration's proposal to eliminate the Institute of Museum and Library Services and the Agency for Health Research Quality. Fact sheets on these issues were provided in the briefing packets that were distributed during the Hill visits. During these meetings, the task force spent time educating Congressional staff about programs and resources that NLM provides to support health care, education, and research. They also addressed NNLM role in supporting the All of Us Research Program, a historic effort to gather data from one million or more people living in the United States to accelerate research and improve health.

Statements and fact sheets can be found in the [MLA Public Policy Center](#).

## Leadership Roster

- Neville Prendergast, Chair (11/1/2018-10/31/2019) and AAHSL Representative (11/1/2016-10/31/2019)
- Sandra L. Bandy, Chair (11/1/2016-10/31/2018), Vice Chair (11/1/2015-10/31/2016), and MLA Representative (6/1/2014-5/31/2021)
- Beverly Murphy, MLA President (6/1/2018-5/31/2019)
- Judy Cohn, AAHSL President (11/1/2018-10/31/2019)
- Kevin Baliozian (2015-)

Cristina Pope, MLA Representative and GRC Chair (5/31/2016-5/31/2019)

- Maggie Ansell, MLA Representative and In-coming GRC Chair (5/31/2019-5/31/2023)
- M.J. Tooley, MLA Representative (6/1/2015-5/31/2019)
- Michelle Kraft MLA Representative (6/1/2016-5/31/2020)
- Paul Schoening AAHSL Representative (April meeting only)
- Geneva Bush Staggs, AAHSL Representative (11/1/2017-10/31/2021)
- Mary M. Langman, Staff Liaison (1992- )