

7.3. MLA/AAHSL Legislative Task Force

Submitted by: Sandra L. Bandy, AHIP

Executive Summary

- The task force held its 2018 annual meeting on April 3-4, 2018 in Washington, DC to conduct business and meet with Congressional staff.
- Support for NLM, NIH, and IMLS funding and public access legislation and regulations were the primary focus for these Capitol Hill visits.

Group Strategic Plan

The Joint MLA/AAHSL Legislative Task Force supports MLA's Strategic Goal 5, Research: Support and advance health information research and evidence-based practices in healthcare by developing and implementing strategies to improve the research skills and competencies of health sciences librarians, grow the body of health information knowledge, provide better access to research that supports evidence-based practice, and advocate to employers, members, and the public the value, impact, and benefits of health sciences libraries and librarians.

MLA Strategic Plan

The Task Force collaborates with allied organizations and agencies (e.g., Association of American Medical Colleges and Association of Academic Health Sciences Libraries) in supporting federal health information funding and public access to federally funded resources.

Facts and Data

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 2017/2018 legislative priorities.

- NLM Funding
- IMLS Funding, S. 2271 Museum and Library Services Act of 2017
- NIH Funding
- H.R. 5305, The Federal Depository Library Program Modernization Act of 2018 (Title 44 Reform)
- Public Access to Information Supported through Federal Funding

MLA Group Annual Reports

At the April 2018 meeting, the task force met with invited guests from National Library of Medicine Jerry Sheehan, Deputy Director, Mike Huerta, NLM Coordinator of Data & Open Science Initiatives, Amanda Wilson, Head, NNLM Coordination Office (All of Us Research Program) and NLM Fellows Shannon Sheridan and Nicole Stryhorn. 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 4, three teams of task force members participated in 27 constituent meetings organized by MLA staff and dropped off facts and data packets to about 63 additional offices. Issues addressed included securing the highest possible funding level for the National Library of Medicine and the MLA Group Annual Full Reports – 2017/2018 Page 147 National Institutes of Health for Fiscal Year 2019, urging Congress to oppose the Administration's proposal to eliminate the Institute of Museum and Library Services in the FY18 budget blueprint, approving The Federal Depository Library Program Modernization Act of 2018 and encouraging Congress to cosponsor the Fair Access to Science and Technology Research Act (FASTR), which will codify the Office of Science and Technology's Policy's (OSTP's) directive calling upon federal agencies with \$100 million in the annual conduct of research and development expenditures to develop a plan to support increased public access to the results of research funded by the federal government. 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. Members can review the Governmental Relations Committee and the Joint MLA/AAHSL Legislative Task Force's Public Policy Center at <http://www.mlanet.org/p/cm/ld/fid=59> to view all of the statements signed this past year.

Leadership Roster

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)

Neville Prendergast, Vice Chair (11/1/2017-10/31/2018) and AAHSL Representative (11/1/2016-10/31/2019)

Barbara Epstein, MLA President (6/1/2017-5/31/2018)

Jane Blumenthal, AAHSL President (11/1/2017-10/31/2018)

Kevin Baliozian, MLA Representative (2015-)

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

M.J. Tooley, MLA Representative (6/1/2015-5/31/2019)

Michelle Kraft, MLA Representative (6/1/2016-5/31/2020)

Esther Carrigan, AAHSL Representative (11/1/2017-10/31/2021)

Susan B. Clark, AAHSL Representative (11/1/2017-10/31/2021)

Geneva Bush Staggs, AAHSL Representative (11/1/2017-10/31/2021)

Mary M. Langman, Staff Liaison (1992-)

Action Required by the Board NO - This report is informational and requires no action by the Board.