

mhslda Michigan Health Sciences Libraries Association

April 29, 1983

MEMORANDUM

Affiliated Group TO: Members, MHSLSA Legislation Committee
Flint Area Health Sciences Library Network FROM: Judy Coppola, Chair
Metropolitan Detroit Medical Library Group MHSLSA Legislation Committee

Mid-Michigan Health Sciences Libraries
Northern Michigan Health Sciences Libraries Group
South Central Michigan Health Sciences Libraries Association
Thumb Area Medical Information Consortium
Upper Peninsula Health Science Libraries Consortium
Valley Regional Health Science Librarians

Owing to distance and expense of travel, the Legislation Committee has not met but has kept in touch by way of written memos. To date three or four of us plan to be at the Michigan Library Association's annual Legislative Day to be held at Cooley Law School on 11 May. The program will run from 9:30 to 6 p.m. and includes guest presentations by legislative leaders and executive branch officials. Lunch is from noon to 1:30. The afternoon will be devoted to visits with legislators (individual appointments are encouraged), ~~and~~ a feedback session, and a reception period with all legislators. Unfortunately, owing to mailing list error, the registration forms were not received until 29 April, but I am informed that late registrations will be accepted.

Western Michigan Health Sciences Libraries Association

On the Michigan scene, Senator William Sederberg has introduced SB 14 and SB 15. SB 14 amends the penal code and defines library theft, sets penalties, and allows library personnel to hold a suspect for probable cause. SB 15 amends the shoplifting law to include libraries, and protects library personnel from suit for assault, battery, false arrest, slander, unlawful detention and malicious prosecution. (These bills have been referred to the Judiciary Committee) SB 23 introduced by Senator Faxon proposes State indemnification for loss or damage to art works on public display in non-profit institutions such as libraries. (This bill referred to Commerce Committee.)

On the Federal scene, Rep. Henry Waxman of the Subcommittee on Health, Environment, Energy and Commerce Committee has introduced HR1555 which would renew the Medical Library Assistance Act for 3 years at levels of \$10, 11, and 12 million respectively. (The Medical Library Association had recommended levels of 12, 13, and 14 million.) The Medical Library Assistance Act is the only source of federal funds for health science libraries and information services, and affects colleges, universities, professional schools and medical research associations and institutions. You are urged to contact your representatives recommending support of the Medical Library Assistance Act renewal.

The LSCA program has been given no allocation by the Reagan administration. This means zero funds for federal grant programs for academic and public libraries. There is a proposed re-authorization bill for LSCA currently being drafted by Rep. Paul Simon of the House Postsecondary Education Committee.

The outcome of the continuing controversy regarding the U.S. Office of Personnel Management's proposed revised standards for government librarians is still unknown. The General Accounting Office has been asked by Congress to review the standards as part of a major study of pay equity. Donald Devine, Director of OPM, feels the proposed revisions would open opportunities "to a large group of women who do not hold MLS but can substitute a BA plus experience for it. They will be able to move up the ladder from GS-5 to GS-7 without the unnecessary over-certification required under the existing standards." Interestingly, the proposed standards would specifically exclude from the GS-1410 series librarians with

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undergraduate degrees, so OPM's argument that the new criteria would open up more advancement to those without an MLS seems negated to some extent. One of the reasons for relaxing the criteria was to allow Bachelor's degree holders with suitable experience the opportunity to rise from GS-5 to GS-7. Suggested alternatives submitted by the American Library Association have been turned down by OPM.

Members, WMLA Legislation Committee
Body Copies, 1971
WMLA Legislation Committee

...to distance and expense of travel, the Legislation Committee has not yet had time to reach a decision on the matter. The date of the next meeting of the committee is to be held at the American Library Association's annual meeting in Las Vegas, Nevada, on 11 May. The program will run from 9:00 to 5:00 p.m. and includes guest presentations by legislative leaders and executive branch officials. Lunch is provided to 1:00. The afternoon will be devoted to visits with legislators. (Individual appointments are encouraged.) A feedback session and a reception period with all legislators. Unfortunately, owing to a printing error, the registration form was not received until 25 April, but you informed that late registrations will be accepted.

On the Michigan issue, Senator William L. Roth has introduced HR 14 and HR 15. HR 14 amends the postal code and defines library staff, etc. HR 15 amends the shipping law to include libraries, etc. The bill is being introduced in the Senate by Senator Frank Lautenberg. (These bills have been referred to the Library Committee.) HR 14 introduced by Senator Lautenberg is a bill for the purpose of amending the postal code and defining library staff, etc. HR 15 introduced by Senator Lautenberg is a bill for the purpose of amending the shipping law to include libraries, etc. (These bills have been referred to the Library Committee.)

On the Federal issue, Sen. Henry Waxman of the Subcommittee on Health, Environment, Energy and Consumer Committee has introduced HR 1555 which would amend the Medical Library Act to provide for a study of the source of federal funds for health science libraries and information services, and efforts to improve, maintain, and expand the medical research, educational, and institutional. You are urged to contact your representatives representing support of the Medical Library Assistance Act renewal.

The WMLA program has been given no attention by the House Administration Committee. The House Administration Committee has introduced HR 1555 which would amend the Medical Library Act to provide for a study of the source of federal funds for health science libraries and information services, and efforts to improve, maintain, and expand the medical research, educational, and institutional. You are urged to contact your representatives representing support of the Medical Library Assistance Act renewal.

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