



May 1, 2010

The Honorable Mike Doyle  
United States House of Representatives  
401 Canon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Doyle:

On behalf of the Medical Library Association (MLA) and Association of Academic Health Sciences Libraries (AAHSL), we are writing to thank you for introducing H.R. 5037, “The Federal Research Public Access Act.” Our organizations strongly support this legislation, as public access to health information is vital to a healthy nation and improved research. This expansion of public access will also preserve health information for researchers, students, educators, and the public for generations to come.

MLA and AAHSL believe that H.R. 5037 will enable researchers to realize new discoveries more quickly, encourage a more open exchange of information among the research community, strengthen the bench-to-bedside approach of translational research, and enhance the affordability and distribution of scientific and scholarly research. Since enactment of the NIH Public Access Policy, approximately 4,500 new biomedical manuscripts are deposited into PubMed Central each month facilitating readership by hundreds of thousands of researchers and millions of Americans. The National Library of Medicine estimates that on a typical weekday, about 420,000 unique users access PubMed Central to retrieve approximately 740,000 articles.

Because discovery is an ongoing process, it is critical that the latest information and research be made freely and openly available to scientists, healthcare providers, and the public—a goal that can be accomplished through H.R. 5037 and its companion bill S. 1373. This legislation also will augment the effect of federal dollars through better patient care resulting from increased access to timely clinical and research information.

The Federal Research Public Access Act will also enhance access to important research and clinical information currently unavailable to many smaller healthcare, public health, and academic institutions and agencies due to cost-prohibitive journal subscriptions.

For all of these reasons, we thank you for introducing “The Federal Research Public Access Act.” The medical library community stands ready to support your efforts to secure passage of this timely and important legislation.

Please let us know if we can provide you with information or offer our support in any way as this legislation moves forward.

Sincerely,



Connie Schardt, AHIP  
President  
Medical Library Association



Connie Poole, AHIP  
President, Association of Academic  
Health Sciences Libraries

cc: Representative Henry Waxman (D-CA)  
Representative Debbie Wasserman Schultz (D-FL)  
Representative Gregg Harper (R-MS)  
Representative Rick Boucher (D-VA)  
Representative Dana Rohrabacher (R-CA)

### **Organizational Biographies**

MLA is a nonprofit, educational organization with more than 4,000 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 116 accredited U.S. and Canadian schools as well 28 associate members. 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.



May 1, 2010

The Honorable Henry Waxman  
United States House of Representatives  
2204 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Waxman:

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May 1, 2010

The Honorable Debbie Wasserman Schultz  
United States House of Representatives  
118 Canon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Wasserman Schultz:

On behalf of the Medical Library Association (MLA) and Association of Academic Health Sciences Libraries (AAHSL), we are writing to thank you for introducing H.R. 5037, "The Federal Research Public Access Act." Our organizations strongly support this legislation, as public access to health information is vital to a healthy nation and improved research. This expansion of public access will also preserve health information for researchers, students, educators, and the public for generations to come.

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May 1, 2010

The Honorable Gregg Harper  
United States House of Representatives  
307 Canon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Harper:

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The Honorable Rick Boucher  
United States House of Representatives  
2187 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Boucher:

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2300 Rayburn House Office Building  
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