

"Americans Can't Wait . . . Pass a Buck"

This National Library Week, April 9–15, ALA and library advocates across the country aim to send a special message to Congress—"Pass a Buck for Libraries."

"Americans can't wait for our nation's libraries to have the information they need," said Patricia Glass Schuman, a past-president of ALA and chair of the "Americans Can't Wait" campaign. "Having accurate, current information is critical to our jobs, our students' education, the health and well-being of our families."

Schuman, who is also chair of ALA's Legislation Committee, said that libraries now receive only 57 cents per person from federal tax dollars, that funding for college and research libraries has been cut, and that there is no federal funding for school libraries.

"That's why we're asking Congress to 'Pass a Buck' for libraries," Schuman said. "That's only 43 cents more but it will help prepare our libraries for the 21st century."

Schuman noted that many public, school, and college libraries can't keep up with the worldwide explosion of information. "Our nation's leaders say they want libraries to be

part of the information superhighway but it takes more than good intentions. We need leadership and a commitment of funds at the highest level."

She urged all library staff, friends groups, trustees, and supporters to call, write, or e-mail their Congressional representatives to register their support.

In 1995 ALA will seek increased funding for college and research libraries under the Higher Education Act and renewal of the Library Services and Construction Act (LSCA) or similar legislation with a special focus on helping public libraries acquire new technology. It will also urge funding

for school library media centers as authorized, but not allocated, under the 1994 Elementary and Secondary Education Act.

"These are important issues for all types of libraries. It's time the entire library community—our users and supporters as well as librarians—speak out," Schuman explained.

For more information about the campaign, including camera-ready art to print "Pass a Buck" postcards, contact the ALA Public Information Office, 50 E. Huron St., Chicago, IL 60611. ■



LIBRARIES
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