



Brooklyn, Queens, Staten Island,
Manhattan and the Bronx
HEALTH SCIENCES LIBRARIANS
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Political Action Committee Chair Report for BQSIMB 2011 Spring Meeting

1. *Update from the House of Representatives on the US Library Trust Fund Act:*

H.R.257

Latest Title: United States Library Trust Fund Act

Sponsor: [Rep Serrano, Jose E.](#) [NY-16] (introduced 1/7/2011)

Referred 2/25/2011 to House subcommittee on Higher Education and Workforce Training.

United States Library Trust Fund Act - Amends the Internal Revenue Code to: (1) establish in the Treasury the United States Library Trust Fund (Fund), and (2) allow taxpayers to designate a portion of any tax overpayment (not less than \$1) to the Fund. Authorizes public libraries or public school libraries to receive grants from the Fund.

2. *Update from the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC):*

House Democrats Call for Increased NIH Funding

March 25, 2011—A total of 117 Democratic Members of Congress signed a March 21 letter urging increased funding for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) in FY 2012. The letter, organized by Reps. Edward Markey (Mass.), Joe Courtney (Conn.), Susan Davis (Calif.), Brian Higgins (N.Y.), Rush Holt (N.J.), and Janice Schakowsky (Ill.), requests at least \$32 billion for NIH for the fiscal year that begins Oct. 1, a level that is consistent with the president's budget request. The letter, which was sent to the chairs and ranking members of the House Appropriations Committee and the Labor-HHS-Education Subcommittee, states, "*We feel this level is absolutely vital in order for NIH to sustain its mission of improving health through medical science breakthroughs and maintaining international leadership in science and biomedical research.*"

Hospital Group Letter Urges House Leaders to Preserve CHGME

March 25, 201—The AAMC joined 12 health care provider and hospital associations in signing a March 21 group letter strongly urging House leadership to maintain its “long-standing bipartisan support” for the Children’s Hospitals Graduate Medical Education (CHGME) program as Congress finalizes the FY 2011 appropriations bills. The letter acknowledges the “difficult budgetary climate,” but explains that “what our nation cannot afford is to further jeopardize children’s access to physicians trained to meet their unique needs.” The AAMC signed similar March 3 group letters sent to Secretary of the Health and Human Services Kathleen Sebelius and to Senate leadership.

3. *Update from Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME):*

Information for Teaching Health Center Graduate Medical Education Program Accreditation (THCGME)

In late November 2010, the US Department of Health and Human Services through the HRSA released an announcement introducing the THCGME program which is aimed at increasing the number of primary care residents and dentists trained in community-based ambulatory patient care settings. In order to be considered eligible for the program entities must be: (1) community-based ambulatory patient care centers that operate a primary care residency program (either family medicine, internal medicine, pediatrics, internal medicine-pediatrics, obstetrics and gynecology, psychiatry, general dentistry, pediatric dentistry, and geriatrics) and (2) listed as institutional sponsors by the relevant accrediting body (HRSA Announcement Number -11-149). A Teaching Health Center (THC) may be a central component of a consortium listed as the sponsoring institution for the residency program by the appropriate accrediting body. Funding can only be used for the costs of new residents in a newly-established THC residency program or an expanded number of residents in a pre-existing THC residency program. The window for the ‘first wave’ of applications closed on December 30, 2010. There will be a second wave of applications considered in 2011.

The ACGME has summarized pertinent points to assist program directors who are submitting an application for accreditation of a new residency program in response to the THCGME grant program. Applications for all new residency programs undergo the same accreditation process according to established ACGME standards. The accreditation process is separate from HRSA’s review of applications for the THCGME program.

Respectfully submitted by Rimma Perelman, Chair of Political Action Committee

March 31, 2011