



Brooklyn, Queens, Staten Island,  
Manhattan and the Bronx  
**HEALTH SCIENCES LIBRARIANS**  
<http://www.bqsimb.org/>

## **Political Action Committee Chair Report for BQSIMB 2018 Fall Meeting**

### **1. 115th Congress (2017 - 2018)**

- 1.1. **S. 3530** A bill to reauthorize the Museum and Library Services Act was sponsored by and introduced in the Senate by Mr. Reed, Jack [D-RI] on **09/28/2018**. It was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

[Excerpt from introduction]: Mr. REED. Mr. President, I am pleased to be joined by a group of members on both sides of the aisle and in both bodies in introducing legislation today to renew the law that expands the reach of libraries and museums and enables them to better serve their communities. These vital institutions educate, inform, engage, and connect people from all walks of life. ...

That legislation was developed with input and insights from the library and museum communities. Since that time, it became apparent in the library community that a vital change was needed to ensure that funding increases for the State formula grant program would be more broadly shared by States around the Nation. Under the current formula, smaller States have seen little in the way of new funding even as funding significantly increased over the last few years. The last time we addressed this issue was in 2003, and an update, while ensuring no State would lose funding, is needed today so that more communities can benefit from increased investments in our Federal library program.

- 1.2. **H. Res. 865** Honoring Tracy K. Smith for her selection by the Librarian of Congress as the 22d Poet Laureate of the United States and recognizing her great accomplishments. It was sponsored and introduced by Rep. Mark Takano [D-CA-41] on **04/27/2018** and referred to the House Committee on House Administration.

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

- (1) honors Tracy K. Smith for her selection by the Librarian of Congress as the 22d Poet Laureate of the United States;
- (2) recognizes the accomplishments of Tracy K. Smith; and
- (3) encourages the people of the United States to explore the impact that the creative arts and poetry has in their daily lives.

### **2. Updates from the AAMC (Association of American Medical Colleges)**

#### **2.1. AAMC Statement on Senate Passage of Opioid Crisis Response Bill – Oct 3, 2018**

AAMC (Association of American Medical Colleges) President and CEO Darrell G. Kirch, MD, issued the following statement regarding Senate passage of the conference agreement for **H.R. 6, the SUPPORT for Patients and Communities Act**, legislation previously passed by the House of Representatives and aimed at addressing the opioid epidemic ...

According to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, 22 million Americans suffer from a substance use disorder, but only 11% of those individuals have received treatment. One barrier to access to treatment has been the Institutions for Mental Diseases (IMD) exclusion, which prohibits Medicaid reimbursement for care at certain hospitals that provide inpatient or residential care for substance use disorders, including many teaching hospitals. ...

While we are grateful that Congress continues to prioritize efforts to reverse the epidemic, we are disappointed that H.R. 6 does not include key bipartisan provisions that would further close the treatment gap by bolstering the health care workforce and equipping health care providers with the information they need. We will continue to work with lawmakers to expand Medicare support for graduate medical education—including in key specialties such as addiction medicine, addiction psychiatry, and pain medicine—and to remove barriers to collaboration between members of the treatment team that care for patients with substance use disorders. ...

<https://news.aamc.org/press-releases/article/senate-opioid-package-10032018/>

### **3. Updates from the ACGME (Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education)**

**3.1. ACGME President and CEO Thomas J. Nasca Named Co-lead of NAM Opioid Collaborative Working Group CHICAGO, IL (October 26, 2018)**— The National Academy of Medicine (NAM) announced that ACGME President and CEO Thomas J. Nasca, MD, MACP has been named co-lead of the NAM [Action Collaborative on Countering the US Opioid Epidemic](#) education and training work group.

NAM designed four working groups to address key issues in formulating a comprehensive response to the opioid epidemic, which is a key issue for the US government. *In addition to education and training, work groups include prescribing guidelines and evidence standards; prevention, treatment, and recovery; and research, data, and metrics.* In the coming months, each work group will announce goals, activities, and opportunities for collaboration. ... To see the complete work group rosters, and for more information about the Action Collaborative, visit [nam.edu/OpioidCollaborative](http://nam.edu/OpioidCollaborative). The ACGME is also a part of NAM's [Action Collaborative on Clinician Well-Being and Resilience](#), with Dr. Nasca serving as co-chair.

### **3.2 ACGME In The News: [Making The Case For The Chief Wellness Officer In America's Health Systems: A Call To Action](#) October 26, 2018—Health Affairs**

Authors: Sandeep Kishore, Jonathan Ripp, Tait Shanafelt ... [et al.]

- "Making The Case For The Chief Wellness Officer In America's Health Systems: A Call To Action, " *Health Affairs Blog*, October 26, 2018. DOI: 10.1377/hblog20181025.308059

[Blog Article excerpts]:

Patient care is being compromised by increasing rates of burnout among America's clinicians, involving not only physicians, but also nurses, advanced practice providers, and other healthcare workers. Burnout can lead, in some cases, to tragic and even fatal

consequences for both clinicians and patients. Because burnout affects the majority of clinicians and suicidal ideation is more common in health professional trainees and practicing physicians than the general public, there is an urgent need for structured and systematic improvements to improve the work life and well-being of our nation's clinicians.

... The appointment of a CWO symbolically and practically establishes well-being on a level of importance equal to that of quality, informatics, and data in the sustainability and success of an organization. Executive leadership support for the position provides legitimacy, financial support, and a platform for executive collaboration. While programs proven to promote well-being may exist in disparate areas of the health system, it is now time to elevate, scale and centralize these activities. The CWO is and will be a central and senior advocate to prioritize, protect, and promote the well-being of all clinicians with the authority and ability to significantly influence culture. ...

Aside from the moral imperative of establishing a wellness officer, it makes financial sense to invest in clinician well-being. There is a strong business case emerging that illustrates how burnout and depression among clinicians results in enormous costs to the health system. Burnout and depression have been linked to [increased medical errors](#), [reduced quality of care](#), [patient dissatisfaction](#), [reduced productivity](#), and perhaps most costly, [staff turnover](#). Findings from cost analyses indicate that, for every dollar invested in wellness, [there is a \\$3 to \\$6 return on investment](#). While we acknowledge that establishing a CWO is not a cure-all, the CWO would support programs to enhance clinician well-being and therefore lower costs over the long term. ...

Ideally, the establishment of a CWO would have significant impact on organizational culture, organizational success, and, most importantly, patient outcomes. The CWO would be expected to work closely with other institutional stakeholders and executive leadership to help drive culture shifts and improve accountability of health system leadership on well-being. For instance, a CWO, the chief human resources officer, CIO and other executives should work together - not separately – to address system-level drivers of burnout. These activities are a natural complement to one another.

***Respectfully submitted via email on October 29, 2018 by Rimma Perelman, Chair of Political Action Committee, BQSIMB.***