

## **Joint MLA/AAHSL Legislative Task Force 2014 Annual Report**

This report covers the period November 2013 through October 2014. The Joint MLA/AAHSL Legislative Task Force supports advocacy efforts of AAHSL and MLA and consists of membership from both organizations. The current AAHSL president serves as an Ex-officio member during their presidential year. The position of chair rotates between the two organizations every two years. Cynthia L. Henderson, representing AAHSL, served as Vice Chair from November 2013 to November 2014. Linne Girouard served as Chair, representing MLA, through October 2014. Cynthia L. Henderson has been appointed to serve as Chair from November 2014 to November 2016. Key support for this joint program is provided by MLA's Director of Information Issues and Policy, Mary Langman.

### **Meetings**

The task force meets in Washington, DC to conduct business and to meet with members of Congress or their staff according to schedules prepared by Ms. Langman. Fall meetings are not held in years when presidential and midterm elections take place. During the last two years, the spring meetings were held in June because Congress delayed action on FY 2014 and FY 2015 spending bills until late spring and early summer.

The task force last met June 25-26, 2014 and addressed two high priority issues: securing the highest possible funding level for the National Library of Medicine (NLM) and the National Institutes of Health (NIH) in Fiscal Year 2015 and encouraging support for public access initiatives and legislation. The Task Force encouraged Congress to cosponsor the Fair Access to Science and Technology Research Act (FASTR). They also addressed the Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) Directive that calls upon federal agencies to develop public access policies, the Public Access to Public Science Act of 2014 (PAPS), and the Frontiers in Innovation, Research, Science and Technology Act of 2014 (FIRST). The Task Force also spent time addressing NLM's role in providing programs and resources that support access to health information through the National Network of Libraries of Medicine (NN/LM), disaster preparedness and response activities, and outreach projects that support constituents at the regional and state levels.

The task force met with invited guests Emily Feltren, Director of Government Relations, American Association of Law Libraries; Dave Moore, Executive Director of the Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research and Senior Director, Government Relations, Association of American Medical Colleges; Betsy Humphreys, Deputy Director, National Library of Medicine, and Jerry Sheehan, Assistant Director for Policy Development, NLM.

On June 26, 2014 constituent visits were scheduled on Capitol Hill for the task force members. Four teams of task force members met with 24 Congressional staff and members of Congress serving on the House and Senate Appropriations Committee and Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies Appropriations Subcommittees, the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee (HELP), the Senate Judiciary Committee, the Senate Homeland Security Committee, and the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

Descriptions and links to statements the two associations have developed and signed onto can be found on MLANET at <https://www.mlanet.org/about/public-policy> and in the information issues and policy section of the 2013-14 MLA headquarters report: <https://www.mlanet.org/about/organization/reports/annual.html>.

## **Legislative Priorities**

Congressional activity and legislation is vast and requires the Task Force to establish priorities that focus on legislation most relevant to MLA and AAHSL.

### **MLA/AAHSL 2014-15 Legislative Priorities**

#### **I. National Health Information Policy**

NLM Funding

IMLS Funding

Healthcare Reform

**The Public Health and Prevention Fund (New)\***

Intellectual Property and Copyright Law

**Orphan Works & Mass Digitization (Ongoing)**

#### **II. Health Care and Public Health Information Resources**

Disaster Preparedness and Response Resources

Telemedicine and Tele-health

Patient Privacy

Public Access to Information Supported through Federal Funding

Consumer and Patient Health Information

#### **III. Health Research Information Resources**

Healthcare Reform

**The Public Health and Prevention Fund (New)**

#### **IV. Health Education Information Resources**

Healthcare Reform

**The Public Health and Prevention Fund (New)**

#### **V. Health Information Technologies and Bioinformatics**

Healthcare Reform

NIH Roadmap Initiative, including: NIH Roadmap for Medical Research/Common Fund;

Multidisciplinary Collaborative Research Clinical Research Translation; and

Training New Clinical Researchers and Bioinformatics Professionals

Interoperable Health Information Technology Infrastructure

#### **VI. Civil Liberties**

USA Patriot Act Reauthorization

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\*The Prevention and Public Health Fund (PPHF) was created by Section 4002 of the Affordable Care Act. It is the nation's first mandatory funding stream dedicated to improving public health, and must be used "to provide for expanded and sustained national investment in prevention and public health programs to improve health and help restrain the rate of growth in private and public health care costs."

Additional information about MLA's public policy actions can be found in the midyear reports of the Governmental Relations Committee and the Information Issues and Policy section of the MLA Headquarters Report.

## **Committee**

### **MLA Members**

Linne' Girouard (6/11-5/15)  
Chair (1/13-11/14)  
Sandra Bandy (6/14-5/18)  
Barbara Epstein (6/12-5/16)  
Carla J. Funk, MLA Executive Director  
Linda Hasman, GRC Chair (6/13-5/16)  
Linda Walton, President (6/14-5/15)  
Mary M. Langman, Staff Liaison

### **AAHSL Members**

Cynthia L. Henderson (11/14-11/18)  
Chair (11/14-11/16)  
Jim Bothmer, President (11/13-11/14)  
Christine Frank (11/13-11/17)  
Jerry Perry (11/12-11/16)  
Julia Schneider (11/11-11/15)

AAHSL President MJ Tooley's term ended in November 2013 and Jim Bothmer began a one-year term as the AAHSL President. Paul Schoening will begin a one-year term in conjunction with this 2014-15 term as AAHSL President. Neil Rambo's term ended in November 2013 and Christine Frank was appointed to a four-year term as an AAHSL member-at-large. Cynthia L. Henderson has been appointed to a four-year term beginning November 2014 through November 2018.

This report is informational and requires no action by the AAHSL Board of Directors.