

November 25, 2014

We, the undersigned national and regional library, publishing, funding and advocacy organizations, are writing to express our support for language in the FY2015 House Democratic Labor, HHS, Education and Related Agencies Appropriations bill that addresses public access to federally funded research, and to urge you to maintain this language as the bill moves toward enactment through comprehensive appropriations legislation.

We represent an international alliance of authors, publishers, students, and educators who advocate for a more open system of scholarly communication. Opening up access to federally funded research is critical to ensuring that all citizens can benefit from its results. Because U.S. taxpayers directly fund this research, they have a right to expect that its distribution and use will be maximized, and that they themselves will have access to it. Greater availability of scholarly and scientific articles expands the impact of research, spurs the advancement of knowledge, and increases the return on research investments.

In February 2013, the administration issued an Executive Directive instructing federal science agencies to establish policies that ensure that the results of taxpayer funded scientific research are available for the public to freely access and fully use. Under this Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) memorandum, the details of each agency's open access policies are expected to be publicized shortly. We believe congressional support is essential to ensuring the proper implementation and rollout of these agency plans, which have experienced ongoing challenges and delays.

Thank you for your attention, support and leadership on this issue. Once again, we ask that you continue to support positive open access language in the FY15 LHHS Appropriations bill.

Very truly yours,

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Coalition of Open Access Policy Institutions (COAPI)

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Council of University of Wisconsin Libraries (CUWL)

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