



American Association of Law Libraries



American Library Association



Association of College and Research Libraries



Association of Research Libraries



Greater Western Library Alliance



SPARC – Scholarly Publishing & Academic Resources Coalition



Special Libraries Association



Medical Library Association

October 22, 2007

Dear Senator:

On behalf of eight organizations – collectively representing over 140,000 libraries in the United States and employing over 350,000 librarians and other personnel – **we strongly urge you to oppose both of the Senator Inhofe amendments (#3416 and #3417)** to the FY 2008 Senate Labor, Health and Human Services and Education and Related Agencies Appropriations bill (S.1710).

These amendments would **severely curtail** the ability of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to effectively make the results of the research it funds using taxpayer dollars available to the public.

U.S. taxpayers underwrite tens of billions of dollars worth of research annually. The NIH alone is responsible for about 70,000 research articles published **each year**. We believe that research articles resulting from this federal funding should be freely available in a timely way to all taxpayers – including doctors, patients, and scientists – to maximize the return on our investment in research and help improve the lives and welfare of people of the United States and the world.

However, under the current voluntary NIH Public Access Policy, less than 5% of individual NIH-funded researchers have made their articles available – preventing the NIH from achieving its goal to create a permanent, publicly accessible archive of the results of the research it has funded.

To address this problem, the FY08 Senate LHHS appropriations bill includes legislative language that was carefully negotiated over several years to **balance the needs of all stakeholders**. The language directs NIH to change its Public Access Policy so that NIH-funded researchers are required to submit copies of their manuscripts to be made publicly available in NIH’s PubMed Central (PMC) online archive within twelve months of publication in a peer-reviewed journal.

Senator Inhofe has proposed two amendments that would cripple the effectiveness of the policy:

- **Amendment #3416** would strike the NIH public access policy provision from S.1710 and leave only the failed voluntary policy in place.
- **Amendment #3417** would give publishers the right to prohibit NIH-funded researchers from complying with the policy if they deem it runs contrary to “policies of the publishers” – effectively placing their interests before those of the NIH and taxpayers.

Neither of these amendments serves the interests of the taxpayers who have funded this research. **Please VOTE NO on Amendments #3416 and #3417.**

October 22, 2007

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Sincerely,

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