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### ***The Federal Research Public Access Act Strengthening Biomedical Research***

The Medical Library Association (MLA) and the Association of Academic Health Sciences Libraries (AAHSL) support the *Federal Research Public Access Act* (FRPAA), H.R. 5037 and S. 1373. This legislation would require federal agencies with annual extramural research portfolios of over \$100 million to develop public access policies related to research conducted by employees of that agency. FRPAA would support better patient care, biomedical research, education, and health information technology through public access to high quality health information in the United States.

- **FRPAA will enable researchers to realize new discoveries more quickly, encourage a more open exchange of information among the research community, and enhance the affordability and distribution of scientific and scholarly research.** Since enactment of the NIH Public Access Policy, approximately 4,500 new biomedical manuscripts are deposited into PubMed Central each month facilitating readership by hundreds of thousands of researchers and millions of Americans. The National Library of Medicine estimates that on a typical weekday, about 420,000 unique users access PubMed Central to retrieve approximately 740,000 articles.
- **FRPAA will support scientific innovation.** Because discovery is an ongoing process, it is critical that the latest information and research be made freely and openly available to scientists, doctors, and the public. This legislation will augment the impact of federal dollars through better patient care resulting from increased access to timely clinical and research information.
- **FRPAA will enhance access to important research and clinical information currently unavailable to many smaller healthcare, public health, and academic institutions and agencies due to cost-prohibitive journal subscriptions.** FRPAA will ensure that more content will be freely available in conjunction with expanded public access policies. This will allow libraries to provide their users with improved service and access to a broader universe of peer-reviewed papers.
- **FRPAA will preserve health information for researchers, students, educators, and the public for generations to come.** Expansion of public access will preserve manuscripts in a stable digital repository maintained by the agency, or in another suitable digital repository that permits free public access. Each document will be freely available to users free of charge within six months after it has been published in a peer-reviewed journal.
- **FRPAA will provide increased access to federally funded research, thereby strengthening biomedical research and improving patient care.** Improved access will accelerate scientific discovery, encourage a more open exchange of information among the research community, strengthen the bench-to-bedside approach of translational research, and enhance the affordability and distribution of scientific and scholarly research.

MLA is a nonprofit, educational organization with approximately 4,000 health sciences information professional members worldwide. Founded in 1898, MLA provides lifelong educational opportunities, supports a knowledgebase of health information research, and works with a global network of partners to promote the importance of quality information for improved health to the health care community and the public.

AAHSL is composed of the directors of the libraries of 116 accredited U.S. and Canadian schools as well 28 associate members. AAHSL's goals are to promote excellence in academic health sciences libraries and to ensure that the next generation of health practitioners is trained in information seeking skills that enhance the quality of healthcare delivery.