

October 14, 2021

The Honorable Lloyd Doggett
United States House of Representatives
Washington DC 20515
Via email: doug.molof@mail.house.gov

Dear Representative Doggett:

Thank you for cosponsoring the Build America's Libraries Act (HR 1581), which would authorize \$5 billion per year to leverage state and local investment in libraries, with funds targeted to areas most in need of assistance. We appreciate your support for this bipartisan legislation and respectfully request that you support its inclusion in budget reconciliation legislation that the House will take up next month.

The pandemic has made clear what librarians already knew: libraries are an essential part of our nation's civic infrastructure worthy of federal investment. They serve as community anchors and the array of services they provide are more important than ever. Libraries are especially important to low- and moderate-income communities, where they are often the only source of broadband access for many households, the only safe and quiet place a child can do her homework, and a vital space for community gatherings and events and the provision of community services. However, the federal government has not invested in library facilities for over 20 years. Many American libraries are more than century old and in dire need of basic upgrades and modernization. Although libraries are primarily a local responsibility, overdue capital investments in library facilities are often beyond a local community's means and there is a clear need for federal support to ensure that all Americans have access to safe and modern libraries.

Build America's Libraries Act funds would be allocated to state library agencies for competitive grants to local libraries for investments in library facilities, including new libraries, health and safety enhancements, improved broadband access and connectivity, energy and water efficiency projects, improved access for person with disabilities, and improvements to ensure libraries can provide education, workforce development, behavioral and mental health services, social services, and other community services. The bill includes language that would require state library agencies to prioritize libraries serving low-income neighborhoods and to projects that address health and safety and improve high-speed broadband access for library patrons. It also includes language to ensure that federal funds supplement rather than supplant state and local funds.



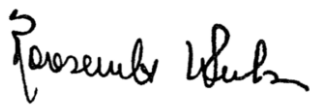
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As a result of the phenomenal growth of the City new branch libraries are needed at Colony Park in the Eastern Crescent and the Four Points area in the City's far Northwest to meet new service demands. Capital renewal is needed to maintain current levels of service for the following unfunded projects: Austin History Center Interior Improvements, John Henry Faulk Repurposing & Renovation, Northeast, Northwest, Southeast, and Southwest Regional Libraries. And finally, various library branches need capital renewal of major building system upgrades or replacement.

Federal support would leverage our local investments and help ensure all Austin residents have easy access to library services. The impact of federal support would be significantly greater in countless communities throughout Texas that struggle to make basic capital investments in libraries and library services.

Investing in libraries is investing in employment, literacy, health, and the overall economy. At a moment when libraries have is proven to be a lifeline for so many, our nation would benefit greatly from the Build America's Libraries Act. Thank you for your support of this bill and for all that you do for Austin.

Sincerely,



Roosevelt Weeks
Director of Libraries
Austin Public Library

October 14, 2021

The Honorable John Carter
United States House of Representatives
Washington DC 20515
Via email: grady.bourn@mail.house.gov

Dear Representative Carter:

We respectfully request your support for the bipartisan Build America's Libraries Act (HR 1581), which would authorize \$5 billion per year to leverage state and local investment in libraries, with funds targeted to areas most in need of assistance.

The pandemic has made clear what librarians already knew: libraries are an essential part of our nation's civic infrastructure worthy of federal investment. They serve as community anchors and the array of services they provide are more important than ever. Libraries are especially important to low- and moderate-income communities, where they are often the only source of broadband access for many households, the only safe and quiet place a child can do her homework, and a vital space for community gatherings and events and the provision of community services. However, the federal government has not invested in library facilities for over 20 years. Many American libraries are more than century old and in dire need of basic upgrades and modernization. Although libraries are primarily a local responsibility, overdue capital investments in library facilities are often beyond a local community's means and there is a clear need for federal support to ensure that all Americans have access to safe and modern libraries.

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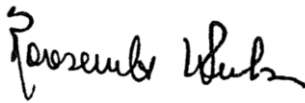
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Sincerely,



Roosevelt Weeks
Director of Libraries
Austin Public Library

October 14, 2021

The Honorable John Cornyn
United States Senate
Washington DC 20510
Via email: claire_sanderson@cornyn.senate.gov

Dear Senator Cornyn:

We respectfully request your support for the bipartisan Build America's Libraries Act (HR 1581), which would authorize \$5 billion per year to leverage state and local investment in libraries, with funds targeted to areas most in need of assistance.

The pandemic has made clear what librarians already knew: libraries are an essential part of our nation's civic infrastructure worthy of federal investment. They serve as community anchors and the array of services they provide are more important than ever. Libraries are especially important to low- and moderate-income communities, where they are often the only source of broadband access for many households, the only safe and quiet place a child can do her homework, and a vital space for community gatherings and events and the provision of community services. However, the federal government has not invested in library facilities for over 20 years. Many American libraries are more than century old and in dire need of basic upgrades and modernization. Although libraries are primarily a local responsibility, overdue capital investments in library facilities are often beyond a local community's means and there is a clear need for federal support to ensure that all Americans have access to safe and modern libraries.

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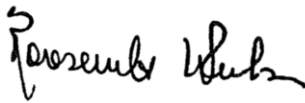
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Roosevelt Weeks
Director of Libraries
Austin Public Library

October 14, 2021

The Honorable Ted Cruz
United States Senate
Washington DC 20510
Via email: joel_heimbach@cruz.senate.gov

Dear Senator Cruz:

We respectfully request your support for the bipartisan Build America's Libraries Act (HR 1581), which would authorize \$5 billion per year to leverage state and local investment in libraries, with funds targeted to areas most in need of assistance.

The pandemic has made clear what librarians already knew: libraries are an essential part of our nation's civic infrastructure worthy of federal investment. They serve as community anchors and the array of services they provide are more important than ever. Libraries are especially important to low- and moderate-income communities, where they are often the only source of broadband access for many households, the only safe and quiet place a child can do her homework, and a vital space for community gatherings and events and the provision of community services. However, the federal government has not invested in library facilities for over 20 years. Many American libraries are more than century old and in dire need of basic upgrades and modernization. Although libraries are primarily a local responsibility, overdue capital investments in library facilities are often beyond a local community's means and there is a clear need for federal support to ensure that all Americans have access to safe and modern libraries.

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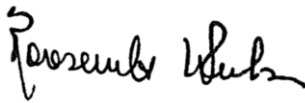
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Sincerely,



Roosevelt Weeks
Director of Libraries
Austin Public Library

October 14, 2021

The Honorable Michael McCaul
United States House of Representatives
Washington DC 20515
Via email: cameron.poursoltan@mail.house.gov

Dear Representative McCaul:

We respectfully request your support for the bipartisan Build America's Libraries Act (HR 1581), which would authorize \$5 billion per year to leverage state and local investment in libraries, with funds targeted to areas most in need of assistance.

The pandemic has made clear what librarians already knew: libraries are an essential part of our nation's civic infrastructure worthy of federal investment. They serve as community anchors and the array of services they provide are more important than ever. Libraries are especially important to low- and moderate-income communities, where they are often the only source of broadband access for many households, the only safe and quiet place a child can do her homework, and a vital space for community gatherings and events and the provision of community services. However, the federal government has not invested in library facilities for over 20 years. Many American libraries are more than century old and in dire need of basic upgrades and modernization. Although libraries are primarily a local responsibility, overdue capital investments in library facilities are often beyond a local community's means and there is a clear need for federal support to ensure that all Americans have access to safe and modern libraries.

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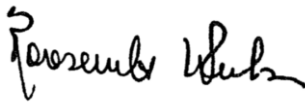
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Sincerely,



Roosevelt Weeks
Director of Libraries
Austin Public Library

October 14, 2021

The Honorable Chip Roy
United States House of Representatives
Washington DC 20515
Via email: sabrina.hancock@mail.house.gov

Dear Representative Roy:

We respectfully request your support for the bipartisan Build America's Libraries Act (HR 1581), which would authorize \$5 billion per year to leverage state and local investment in libraries, with funds targeted to areas most in need of assistance.

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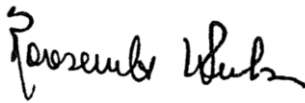
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Sincerely,



Roosevelt Weeks
Director of Libraries
Austin Public Library

October 14, 2021

The Honorable Pete Sessions
United States House of Representatives
Washington DC 20515
Via email: ryan.young@mail.house.gov

Dear Representative Sessions:

We respectfully request your support for the bipartisan Build America's Libraries Act (HR 1581), which would authorize \$5 billion per year to leverage state and local investment in libraries, with funds targeted to areas most in need of assistance.

The pandemic has made clear what librarians already knew: libraries are an essential part of our nation's civic infrastructure worthy of federal investment. They serve as community anchors and the array of services they provide are more important than ever. Libraries are especially important to low- and moderate-income communities, where they are often the only source of broadband access for many households, the only safe and quiet place a child can do her homework, and a vital space for community gatherings and events and the provision of community services. However, the federal government has not invested in library facilities for over 20 years. Many American libraries are more than century old and in dire need of basic upgrades and modernization. Although libraries are primarily a local responsibility, overdue capital investments in library facilities are often beyond a local community's means and there is a clear need for federal support to ensure that all Americans have access to safe and modern libraries.

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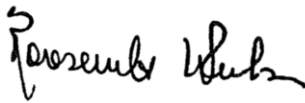
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Sincerely,



Roosevelt Weeks
Director of Libraries
Austin Public Library

October 14, 2021

The Honorable Roger Williams
United States House of Representatives
Washington DC 20515
Via email: katie.crane@mail.house.gov

Dear Representative Williams:

We respectfully request your support for the bipartisan Build America's Libraries Act (HR 1581), which would authorize \$5 billion per year to leverage state and local investment in libraries, with funds targeted to areas most in need of assistance.

The pandemic has made clear what librarians already knew: libraries are an essential part of our nation's civic infrastructure worthy of federal investment. They serve as community anchors and the array of services they provide are more important than ever. Libraries are especially important to low- and moderate-income communities, where they are often the only source of broadband access for many households, the only safe and quiet place a child can do her homework, and a vital space for community gatherings and events and the provision of community services. However, the federal government has not invested in library facilities for over 20 years. Many American libraries are more than century old and in dire need of basic upgrades and modernization. Although libraries are primarily a local responsibility, overdue capital investments in library facilities are often beyond a local community's means and there is a clear need for federal support to ensure that all Americans have access to safe and modern libraries.

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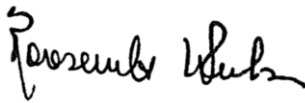
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