

April 9, 2015

The Honorable John Cornyn
517 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Cornyn,

On behalf of these 17 national and regional library, publishing, funding, research and advocacy organizations, we write to thank you for introducing S. 779, the Fair Access to Science and Technology Research (FASTR) Act. This bill provides an important mechanism to ensure that manuscripts of peer-reviewed scientific articles reporting on research funded by the federal government can be freely accessed and fully used by all American taxpayers – including researchers, teachers, students, entrepreneurs, businesses and the public at-large.

Timely, barrier-free access to the results of federally funded research is an essential component of our collective investment in science. The increased sharing and use of this information will help to advance the pace of discovery, as well as to speed the translation of this knowledge into innovative new services and products – fueling economic growth, and helping to create jobs.

The bill advances the progress made by the public access policy of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the first U.S. agency to require public access to taxpayer-funded research. Since its implementation, the NIH policy has resulted in 3.2 million articles being made publicly available. Demand for this information is extremely high, with more than 100,000 unique users accessing material from this repository each day. Under FASTR, research results related to issues of equally critical importance will be just as readily accessible to the public.

We thank you again for your leadership in introducing the FASTR Act and for your long-standing commitment to the success of crucial public access policies. We look forward to continuing to work with you to see that this important legislation is passed into law.

Sincerely,

American Association of Law Libraries (AALL)
<http://www.aallnet.org/>
Contact: Elizabeth Holland

American Library Association (ALA)
www.ala.org
Contact: Adam Eisgrau

Association of Academic Health Sciences Libraries (AAHSL)
www.aahsl.org
Contact: Gretchen Arnold

Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL)
www.acrl.org
Contact: Kara Malenfant

Association of Research Libraries (ARL)

www.arl.org

Contact: Prudence Adler

Association of Southeastern Research Libraries (ASERL)

www.aserl.org

Contact: John Burger

Coalition of Open Access Policy Institutions (COAPI)

www.sparc.arl.org/COAPI

Contact: Anne Langley

CUWL-Council of University of Wisconsin Libraries

<https://www.wisconsin.edu/systemwide-it/councils/cuwl/>

Creative Commons

<https://creativecommons.org>

Contact: Tim Vollmer

Electronic Frontier Foundation (EFF)

<https://eff.org>

Contact: Adi Kamdar

Foundation Fighting Blindness

<http://www.blindness.org>

Contact: Stephen Rose

Greater Western Library Alliance (GWLA)

www.gwla.org

Contact: Joni Blake

PeerJ

<https://peerj.com>

Contact: Peter Binfield

Public Library of Science (PLOS)

www.plos.org

Contact: Cameron Neylon

Public Knowledge

www.publicknowledge.org

Contact: Michael Weinberg

Scholarly Publishing & Academic Resources Coalition (SPARC)

www.sparc.arl.org

Contact: Heather Joseph

Wisconsin Library Association

<http://wla.wisconsinlibraries.org/>

Contact: Julie Schneider