

ALA American Library Association

February 18, 2026

The Honorable Brian J. Mast
Chairman
Committee on Foreign Affairs
U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Gregory W. Meeks
Ranking Member
Committee on Foreign Affairs
U.S. House of Representatives

Re: H.R. 6997, Community Passport Services Access Act – SUPPORT

Dear Chairman Mast and Ranking Member Meeks,

On behalf of the American Library Association (ALA), I write in support of **H.R. 6997**, the Community Passport Services Access Act, and its Senate companion, **S. 3733**. These bills would allow nonprofit public libraries to continue serving as passport acceptance facilities designated by the State Department.

Many libraries across the country serve as passport acceptance facilities. These libraries offer a convenient location for Americans to apply for a U.S. passport, especially in rural areas which may be distant from other passport acceptance facilities.

Until now, both governmental and nonprofit public libraries have provided passport services. Public libraries are organized differently in each state: in some states, all public libraries are units of government, while in other states, many public libraries are nonprofit organizations.

However, recently the State Department determined that nonprofit organizations are ineligible to serve as passport acceptance facilities. As a result, dozens of public libraries will be forced to stop offering passport services in their communities. These libraries helped tens of thousands of Americans apply for a passport last year.

The Community Passport Services Access Act would correct this issue and allow nonprofit public libraries to continue serving as passport acceptance facilities. To maintain continuity of services, we urge Congress to promptly advance this bipartisan legislation. If we can provide more information, please contact Gavin Baker (gbaker@alawash.org).

Sincerely,



Lisa R. Varga, MLS
Associate Executive Director, Public Policy and Advocacy
American Library Association

The American Library Association (“ALA”) is the foremost national organization providing resources to inspire library and information professionals to transform their communities through essential programs and services. For more than 140 years, the ALA has been the trusted voice for academic, public, school, government and special libraries, advocating for the profession and the library's role in enhancing learning and ensuring access to information for all.