



*American Association of Law Libraries*  
MAXIMIZING THE POWER OF THE LAW LIBRARY COMMUNITY SINCE 1906

**Mary Alice Baish**  
Acting Washington Affairs Representative

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June 2, 2008

The Honorable Barack Obama  
U.S. Senate  
713 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Tom Coburn  
U.S. Senate  
172 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Obama and Coburn:

On behalf of the American Association of Law Libraries (AALL), I write to thank you for your leadership on the Strengthening Transparency and Accountability in Federal Spending Act and to offer our association's strong support for this legislation. This bill will help to strengthen the groundbreaking law that you made possible – the Federal Accountability and Transparency Act (P.L. 109-282) – and will make important new data more easily accessible. We believe this legislation will allow members of the public to better examine the federal government's funding decisions and priorities and will go far in promoting transparency and government accountability.

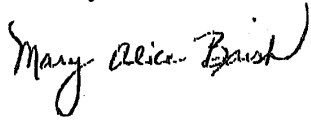
The American Association of Law Libraries is a nonprofit educational organization with over 5000 members nationwide. Our members serve the legal information needs of legislators, judges, and other public officials at all levels of government, corporations and small businesses, law professors and students, attorneys, and members of the general public. AALL's mission is to promote and enhance the value of law libraries, to foster law librarianship and to provide leadership and advocacy in the field of legal information and information policy.

In particular, we support three key elements of the Strengthening Transparency and Accountability in Federal Spending Act. First, the bill will make technical corrections to the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006 by increasing the data available to the public. Second, the bill will improve data quality on the USASpending.gov website. Third, the legislation will make important strides in

combining and disseminating information about contractor and grantee performance, including instances of default, suspension, debarment, and any information regarding civil, criminal, and administrative actions initiated or concluded by either federal or state governments in the preceding five years against federal award recipients.

The Strengthening Transparency and Accountability in Federal Spending Act is an important reform that will enhance and expand the information already made available to millions of citizens around the country through the USASpending.gov website. We applaud your leadership in continuing to promote transparency and government accountability and thank you for your commitment to improving access to information about government spending.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary Alice Baish". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Mary Alice Baish  
Acting Washington Affairs Representative  
American Association of Law Libraries