

**JACK REED**  
RHODE ISLAND

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# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3903

June 18, 2003

Ms. Tovah Reis  
President-elect  
ARIHSL  
Sciences Library Box I  
Brown University  
Providence, Rhode Island 02912

Dear Ms. Reis:

Thank you for the kind invitation to speak at the 50th anniversary celebration of the Association of Rhode Island Health Sciences Libraries (ARIHSL). I regret that the Senate's schedule prevents me from being able to attend this important event.

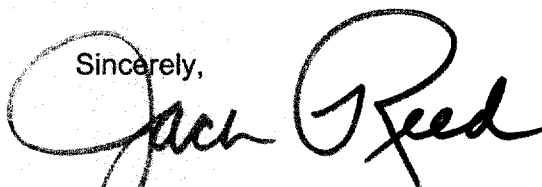
The importance of library and information services in our increasingly complex world cannot be overstated. I applaud the work and efforts of ARIHSL to educate health information professionals, support the delivery of effective patient care, provide health information research, and ensure that Rhode Islanders have access to the best and most up-to-date health information.

In an era plagued by emerging diseases like SARS and invidious bioterrorist threats, it is essential for health care providers to quickly and accurately identify unusual ailments. Our health sciences librarians ensure that health care providers and researchers have access to the most timely and relevant information they need to make these difficult diagnoses. Additionally, your work will become increasingly indispensable in times of crisis by helping our community leaders dispel myths and inform the public of the real risks of public health threats.

Strengthening library services and information access is a goal we share. I was pleased to recently join Senator Judd Gregg, Chairman of the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee, in introducing the Museum and Library Services Act of 2003. This legislation extends the authorization of museum and library services for six years, and makes several important modifications to update the law to meet the future needs of museum and library users. I am glad that the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee unanimously approved the bill, and I hope it will pass the Senate soon.

Again, I appreciate your hard work, and I look forward to working closely with you to improve our nation's libraries.

Sincerely,



Jack Reed  
United States Senator

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**WASHINGTON, DC:**

728 HART SENATE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3903  
(202) 224-4642

**RHODE ISLAND:**

201 HILLSIDE ROAD  
SUITE 200  
GARDEN CITY  
CRANSTON, RI 02920-5602  
(401) 943-3100

U.S. FEDERAL COURTHOUSE  
ONE EXCHANGE TERRACE  
ROOM 408  
PROVIDENCE, RI 02903-1773  
(401) 528-5200

1-(800) 284-4200

TDD RELAY RHODE ISLAND  
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<http://reed.senate.gov>