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Publishers Praise Introduction of “Textbook Equity” Resolution

House Resolution Calls for Equitable Funding at the Local Level for K-12 Textbooks

Washington, DC, August 7, 2006: The Association of American Publishers (AAP) welcomed the introduction of a Congressional resolution calling for equitable funding of textbooks at the local level, and praised its sponsors, Representatives Danny Davis (D-IL) and John Shimkus (R-IL).

Introduced in the House on July 28, H. Con. Res. 463 expresses the sense of Congress regarding equity in the availability of textbooks at the primary and secondary school levels. The resolution states that all students should receive up-to-date textbooks in order to meet educational requirements. It also recommends that each state ensure that poorer school districts have the same or similar up-to-date textbooks as students throughout the state.

“AAP commends and thanks Rep. Davis and Rep. Shimkus for their leadership on this critically important issue,” said AAP President/CEO Pat Schroeder. “Textbooks and other instructional materials are second only to the teacher as the central educational resource in the classroom. Every child is entitled to high-quality, up-to-date instructional materials. AAP and its members support this resolution and urge its passage by the House.”

The Resolution cites AAP research regarding a nationwide shortage of instructional materials, including findings that:

- One in three teachers use textbooks that are 10 years old or older.
- One out of six teachers said their students are forced to share books in class.
- Teachers in urban districts are twice as likely as those in rural areas, small towns, and suburbs to report an inadequate supply of textbooks.
- Thirty-four percent of teachers say the achievement gap widens when there is an inadequate supply of textbooks.

H. Con. Res. 463 has been referred to the House Education and Workforce Committee.

The Association of American Publishers is the national trade association of the U.S. book publishing industry. AAP’s more than 300 members include most of the major commercial book publishers in the United States, as well as smaller and non-profit publishers, university presses and scholarly societies. The AAP School Division is concerned with publishing for the elementary and secondary school (K-12) market. The division works to enhance the role of instructional materials in the education process, to maintain categorical funding for instructional materials and increase the funds available for the purchase of these materials, to simplify and rationalize the process of state adoptions for instructional materials, and to generally improve the climate in which educational publishers do business. The division serves as a bridge between the publishing industry and the educational community, promoting the cause of education at the national and state level.

