



September 19, 2007

The Honorable Harry Reid
Majority Leader
United States Senate
S-221 Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20510-7020

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Republican Leader
United States Senate
S-230 Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20510-7010

Re: NIH Public Access Policy

Dear Senators Reid and McConnell:

On behalf of the nation's leading Internet companies, I am writing to ask for your support for adoption of the National Institutes of Health's public access policy as part of S. 1710, the FY2008 Labor, Health, and Human Services and Education and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill, or any other appropriate legislation.

The proposed public access policy would require NIH-funded researchers to deposit copies of articles resulting from NIH funded research into the online archive of the National Library of Medicine, PubMed Central, no later than twelve months after publication in a peer-reviewed journal.

It is the mission of NetCoalition companies to help their users locate and access the information they need. The NIH public access policy would further this mission by placing valuable publicly-funded medical research in an online location where search engines operated by NetCoalition members could index and link to it. The public access policy thus would simultaneously assist broad dissemination of important healthcare information and growth of the Internet.

The NIH public access policy has been thoroughly vetted during the three years it has been before Congress. The House included it in its version of the FY2008 Labor, Health, and Human Services and Education and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. Further delay would only harm the members of the public who could benefit from the availability of this potentially life-saving information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Markham Erickson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Markham Erickson
Executive Director and General Counsel