

To whom it may concern,

I recently heard that there is currently a bill to stop open access to public, tax-payer funded research (H.R. 3699 Research Works Act: <http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/z?c112:H.R.3699>). As a recent graduate, and researcher, I think this bill should not pass for several reasons:

1. American taxpayers already funded this research, so they should get access to the results. Requiring taxpayers to pay for access to publicly-funded research articles is akin to asking someone to pay for groceries, then pay for being able to eat them. The latter would be unfair .
2. The inability to access cutting edge research means that the research will not be disseminated as easily. This can hinder further research in the U.S. Researchers who support open-access research (which, now seems like many researchers) will publish in journals that are abroad that have lower or no publication costs. This diminishes the research published within the U.S.
3. Doctors and patients need access to medical research to help cure diseases and improve the health of patients. Adding an access cost for patients and doctors creates a barrier to improving health care.

I urge you to not pass HR 369: Research Works Act.

Thank you,
Girish Tembe