

PUBLIC POLICY PRIORITIES FOR THE 115TH CONGRESS

The American Association of Law Libraries (AALL) is the only national association dedicated to the legal information profession and its professionals. Founded in 1906 on the belief that people—lawyers, judges, students, and the public—need timely access to relevant legal information to make sound legal arguments and wise legal decisions, its nearly 4,500 members are problem solvers of the highest order. AALL fosters the profession by offering its members knowledge, leadership, and community that make the whole legal system stronger.

ACCESS TO JUSTICE

As the principal providers of legal information and trusted institutions, law libraries are key contributors to ensuring access to justice. AALL supports:

- Adequate funding for the Legal Services Corporation, which funds and promotes programs that provide the public with access to legal resources and legal aid

BALANCE IN COPYRIGHT

An equitable balance in copyright law between the rights of information users and those of content creators is essential to the free flow of information, innovation, and the advancement and creation of knowledge. AALL supports:

- Copyright policies that support the needs of law libraries, including protection of fair use and the library exceptions in Title 17
- Policies that enable digitization and greater access to knowledge, including updates to Section 1201 of Title 17
- Adequate resources for the Copyright Office, which is well-served by its home in the Library of Congress
- Policies that ensure that government information is in the public domain and available to the public without restriction

GREATER ACCESS TO GOVERNMENT INFORMATION

Changes in the way legal and government information is produced and disseminated are significantly impacting how information is accessed and used. AALL supports:

- Policies that ensure that legal and government information is authentic, complete, discoverable, and preserved for permanent public access
- Adequate funding for agencies that support the lifecycle of government information, including the Government Publishing Office, Library of Congress, and National Archives and Records Administration
- Increased access to information on government websites including federal court information through PACER, and Congressional Research Service reports
- Efforts to provide access to government data in open and machine readable formats



OPENNESS IN GOVERNMENT

Transparency in government encourages public participation and strengthens our democracy. AALL supports:

- Improvements to the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), including limiting the use of FOIA exemptions
- Policies that protect net neutrality, which safeguards the unique, open nature of the internet, and promotes innovation, competition, and intellectual freedom

PROTECTION OF PRIVACY IN A NETWORKED WORLD

As more information about individuals is available online, connected by the Internet of Things in ways previously unimagined, the federal government has an increasing responsibility to protect the privacy of library users. AALL supports:

- Laws that ensure a balanced approach to privacy to protect library users and the free exchange of ideas and information
- Strong oversight and transparency of government surveillance and cybersecurity programs that monitor public communications
- Updates to laws that protect individuals' privacy, including the privacy of electronic communications and data