



PRESS RELEASE

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AALL States Support for GPO, LC 2015 Funding Requests

Chicago 5/2/2014—On Thursday, the House of Representatives approved the Legislative Branch Appropriations Act (H.R. 4487), which includes funding for the Government Printing Office (GPO) and Library of Congress (LC).

The American Association of Law Libraries (AALL) commends the House for providing \$594.9 million for the Library of Congress, a higher level of funding than was requested, for deacidification—a process that involves neutralizing acids to treat and preserve paper documents—and for assisting the Copyright Office in improving processing time for copyright registrations. The GPO was funded at \$122.6 million.

AALL President Steve Anderson submitted written testimony in March and April to the U.S. House of Representatives and Senate Appropriations Subcommittees on the Legislative Branch in support of the Fiscal Year 2015 funding requests of GPO and LC. The requests included \$128.9 million for GPO and \$593.1 million for the Library of Congress.

The testimony, submitted on behalf of AALL, the Medical Library Association and the Special Libraries Association—which together represent more than 18,000 librarians and information specialists—highlighted both agencies' crucial work to provide access to official, authentic and preserved government information in multiple formats.

Despite substantial changes in the past century that affected how documents are published and distributed, the GPO, which celebrated its 153th anniversary on March 4, has continued to provide permanent public access to information from all three government branches at no charge.

Anderson's testimony also emphasized GPO's commitment to information dissemination during the 2013 government shutdown, noting that while many agency websites were unavailable, GPO.gov and the Catalog of Government Publications were functioning, and FDsys was updated with Congressional information.

"The shutdown demonstrated GPO's critical role in safeguarding the full electronic life-cycle of digital content, from harvesting and cataloging to permanent public access and preservation," Anderson said in the statement.

The Legislative Branch appropriations bill will next move to the Senate for consideration. AALL urges the Senate to approve the House's Library of Congress funding recommendation and also provide additional funding to meet GPO's FY 2015 request.



American Association of
Law Libraries

The full testimony text is available at <http://www.aallnet.org/Documents/Government-Relations/Formal-Statements/2014/testimony030714.pdf> and <http://www.aallnet.org/Documents/Government-Relations/Formal-Statements/2014/testimony042914.pdf>. For more information on AALL, please visit <http://www.aallnet.org>.

About AALL

The American Association of Law Libraries was founded in 1906 to promote law libraries' value to the legal and public communities; foster the law librarianship profession and provide leadership in the legal information field. With nearly 5,000 members, AALL represents law librarians and related professionals who are affiliated with law firms; law schools; corporate legal departments; courts; and local, state and federal government agencies. For more information, visit AALLNET.org.