

SUPPORT FOR THE FDLP MODERNIZATION ACT OF 2018

The bipartisan FDLP Modernization Act of 2018 (H.R. 5305) would update and strengthen the Federal Depository Library Program (FDLP) to ensure that members of the public have permanent access to government information. H.R. 5305 clearly states the public's right of no-fee permanent access to government information; allows flexibility for Federal Depository Libraries while ensuring opportunities for participation and input from many types of libraries, including law libraries; and strengthens the Superintendent of Document's responsibilities to authenticate and preserve government information.

Congress established the modern FDLP program under the supervision of the U.S. Government Publishing Office (GPO) with the passage of the *Printing Act of 1895*. The current FDLP has been in place since 1962.

The American Association of Law Libraries (AALL) urges swift passage of the FDLP Modernization Act (H.R. 5305), which strengthens the FDLP by:

- **Increasing no-fee public access to trustworthy government information** by providing greater flexibility for libraries, facilitating collaboration, streamlining program requirements, and allowing more libraries to participate.
- **Improving access to electronic government information** by clarifying that digital information belongs in the program, guaranteeing free access to the GPO's online repository, and authorizing GPO to digitize historical publications and preserve government information.
- **Ensuring transparency and oversight** to encourage the program to continue to evolve to meet the future needs of libraries and the public.

H.R. 5305 is sponsored by Committee on House Administration Chairman Gregg Harper (R-Miss.), Ranking Member Bob Brady (D-Pa.), and Committee members Rodney Davis (R-Ill.), Barbara Comstock (R-Va.), Mark Walker (R-N.C.), Barry Loudermilk (R-Ga), Zoe Lofgren (D-Calif.), Jamie Raskin (D-Md.) and Adrian Smith (R-Neb.). The bill is supported by AALL, the American Library Association, and the Association of Research Libraries, as well as the GPO.