

SUPPORT FULL FUNDING FOR THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

The Library of Congress is the main research arm of the U.S. Congress, the largest library in the world, and the home of the U.S. Copyright Office. The Library needs full funding to transform into a more user-centered, digitally-enabled, and data-driven agency.

Housed within the Library of Congress, the Law Library of Congress is a treasured institution offering access to an unparalleled collection of domestic, foreign, and international legal material. The Law Library not only provides Congress timely, comprehensive research; the Law Library's lawyers and law librarians serve the federal judiciary and executive branch agencies, the practicing bar, state and local government, businesses, scholars, journalists, and anyone with legal research and reference needs. In the first half of Fiscal Year (FY) 2019, the Law Library responded to 472 requests from Congressional staff and the Congressional Research Service and an additional 7,500 digital, phone, and in-person inquiries. The Law Library also held 66 briefings, seminars, tours, webinars, and classes with nearly 6,000 participants.

THE ASK: Support full funding for the Library of Congress for FY 2020, including \$18 million for the Law Library of Congress.

KEY POINTS: The American Association of Law Libraries (AALL) supports full funding for the Library of Congress. Full funding will allow the Library to:

- **Expand its reach to every state and district through greater engagement with its tangible and electronic collections**, deepening the Library's impact and engaging people of all ages to interact with the millions of books, recordings, photographs, newspapers, maps, and manuscripts in its collections.
- **Enable the Law Library to enhance its support for the legal research needs of its users** by digitizing historical Congressional and other public domain materials such as the *United States Congressional Serial Set*. AALL also urges continued investment in the development of Congress.gov, the official website for federal legislative information and an essential tool for legal research.
- **Streamline operations and improve efficiencies** by updating information technology so that the Library can address growing security, collection development, and storage needs.

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AALL is the only national association representing over 4,000 law librarians and legal information professionals. Founded in 1906 on the premise that people need timely access to relevant legal information to make sound legal arguments and wise legal decisions, AALL members are problem solvers of the highest order. The association is headquartered in Chicago with a Government Relations Office in Washington, DC. Learn more at www.aallnet.org.