



March 3, 2020

The Honorable Zoe Lofgren
Chair
Committee on House Administration
U.S. House of Representatives
1309 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rodney Davis
Ranking Member
Committee on House Administration
U.S. House of Representatives
1309 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

RE: FDLP Modernization and Hearing on “Oversight of the Government Publishing Office”

Dear Chair Lofgren and Ranking Member Davis:

On behalf of the American Association of Law Libraries, the American Library Association, and the Association of Research Libraries, we thank you for holding today’s oversight hearing on the Government Publishing Office (GPO). We look forward to hearing from GPO’s new Director Hugh Halpern in his first appearance before the Committee on House Administration. Under Director Halpern’s leadership, we believe GPO will modernize its operations to improve access to government information and support a more open government.

We write to express our continued interest in modernizing the Title 44 provisions related to the Federal Depository Library Program (FDLP) and GPO’s other public information programs. Since 1813, GPO has partnered with federal depository libraries to provide permanent public access to government information. Today, more than 1,100 libraries participate in the FDLP, assisting your constituents with finding the government information they need.

During the 115th Congress, the Committee on House Administration conducted several hearings and in-person meetings during which members of the Committee and staff listened to the concerns of librarians regarding the need to modernize the FDLP. The resulting legislation, the FDLP Modernization Act of 2018 (H.R. 5305), was cosponsored by all Committee on House Administration members and supported by GPO and the major library associations.

We urge the Committee to once again consider legislation to modernize the FDLP to reflect the current digital environment and increase flexibility for libraries. We would welcome the opportunity to support the Committee by providing information or assistance. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Michelle Cosby
President
American Association of Law Libraries



Gavin R. Baker
Deputy Director
Public Policy and Government Relations
American Library Association

Association of Research Libraries

cc:

Hugh Halpern, Director, GPO
Laurie Hall, Superintendent of Documents, GPO