

**Written Testimony of Mr. Cornell H. Winston
President of the American Association of Law Libraries
For the Hearing Record**

**Fiscal Year 2026 Funding for the U.S. Government Publishing Office and
the Library of Congress**

**U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on the Legislative Branch**

May 9, 2025

Dear Chairman Mullin, Ranking Member Heinrich, and Members of the Subcommittee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on behalf of the American Association of Law Libraries (AALL) in support of the Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 budget requests of the U.S. Government Publishing Office (GPO) and the Library of Congress.

AALL is a national organization representing more than 3,600 law librarians and legal information professionals. AALL members work in many library settings, including law schools and law firms; federal, state, and county governments; and federal and state courts. Law librarians and legal information professionals rely on resources and publications provided for free by the GPO, the Library of Congress, and the Law Library of Congress to support the legal research needs of students, attorneys, self-represented litigants, and members of the public.

AALL thanks the Subcommittee for its support of prior year's funding requests of the GPO and the Library of Congress. Past funding has allowed the GPO and the Library of Congress to develop innovative partnerships with federal agencies and law libraries to digitize, preserve, and provide public access to primary legal materials, including the *United States Code* and the *Code of Federal Regulations*. Partnerships between law libraries, the GPO, and the Law Library of Congress promote access to justice by making legal materials easier for legal researchers and the public to find, understand, and use. Recent funding has also enabled the GPO and the Law Library of Congress to create new public resources including legal research guides and online trainings on a variety of government information topics that are helpful to legal researchers, such as how to find federal legislation on Congress.gov and how to track federal regulations.



Funding for the U.S. Government Publishing Office

The GPO produces, organizes, authenticates, disseminates, and preserves official federal legal information and government documents for the public. Many law libraries partner with the GPO through the Federal Depository Library Program (FDLP) to provide public access to legal materials in print and online. Law librarians and legal information professionals regularly use GovInfo to support the legal research needs of their patrons.

With the Subcommittee's support of the GPO's past funding requests, the GPO has increased access to electronic federal information through the FDLP; partnered with libraries to digitize, preserve, and provide public access to core legal materials and government publications; and added new public collections of primary legal materials to *govinfo*, including digitized historical volumes of the *United States Congressional Serial Set* which are now available to the public at no cost.

AALL urges the Subcommittee to approve the GPO's FY 2026 full funding request. The request will provide the funds the GPO needs to fund the operation of the public information programs of the Superintendent of Documents. This program supports Federal Government publications in digital and tangible formats to almost 1,100 Federal Depository Libraries nationwide, cataloging and indexing, the distribution of documents to recipients designated by law, and international exchange distribution.

The GPO's funding will also be used to support the development of new GovInfo features. This includes developing new content collections, increasing content in existing collections, enhancing the accessibility of content, and improving the discoverability of information hosted on GovInfo.

Full Funding for the Library of Congress and the Law Library of Congress

The Library of Congress budget request for FY 2026 includes funding to complete key projects, including strategies for data preservation and presentation. Funding will also be used to improve access to the many users of the Library's data, collections and services through its primary public websites by transitioning web development activities to the cloud.

The Law Library of Congress requires continued investment to strengthen its capacity, enhance digital access to its vast legal resources, and maintain its ability to serve Congress, the judiciary, and the public.



The Law Library of Congress provides legal research services and public access to an extensive collection of foreign, comparative, international, and United States law. Law librarians and legal information professionals at academic law libraries and public law libraries often refer patrons to the Law Library of Congress for its unique collections of legal materials in print and online, including the digitized *United States Statutes at Large* dating back to 1781, official foreign legal gazettes, and Spanish legal documents from the 15th to 19th centuries.

The Subcommittee's approval of past funding for the Library of Congress and the Law Library of Congress has enabled the Law Library to digitize, preserve, and provide the public with access to many collections of legal materials from the United States and other countries. The Law Library of Congress' extensive collections of print and online foreign official gazettes dating back to the mid-19th century are also very useful to law librarians and legal information professionals because many of these materials are not available at other law libraries.

Conclusion

AALL appreciates the opportunity to provide written testimony in support of the FY 2026 funding requests of the U.S. Government Publishing Office and the Library of Congress. Please let us know if we can provide additional information as you develop the FY 2026 Legislative Branch funding bill. Thank you.