

**Testimony of
Gavin Baker, Deputy Director, Public Policy and Government Relations
American Library Association**

**Regarding the
Library of Congress
and the
Government Publishing Office**

**Before the Senate Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on the Legislative Branch
Public Witness Testimony for Fiscal Year 2023
May 24, 2022**

Chair Reed, Ranking Member Braun, and Members of the Subcommittee:

On behalf of the American Library Association, thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony regarding Legislative Branch Appropriations for Fiscal Year 2023. We respectfully request the Committee's support for the Library of Congress and the Government Publishing Office, which provide important services to libraries and residents nationwide.

Library of Congress

The Library of Congress not only serves Congress, but also delivers important benefits for libraries across the country and the American public.

After several years of investment in the Library's Visitor Experience Initiative, the first phase is expected to open in fall 2023. Carrying through on these investments will highlight the Library's unique collections and inspire millions of visitors to learn, create, and innovate.

The Library's services also reach far beyond its walls through programs such as the National Library Service for the Blind and Print Disabled, which serves readers nationwide who cannot see print or handle print materials. The service supports a network of regional libraries, such as the Rhode Island Office of Library and Information Services' Talking Books Library and the Indiana Talking Book & Braille Library, and is expanding delivery of specialized eReaders to more efficiently and effectively serve braille and talking book users.

Government Publishing Office

The Government Publishing Office provides essential information to America's businesses, legal system, and researchers.

Through the Public Information Programs of the Superintendent of Documents, the Office provides federal publications in digital and tangible formats to 1,113 libraries nationwide through the Federal Depository Library Program, as well as cataloging and indexing of federal publications to improve public access. The program supports Americans' access to these

publications – including federal laws, regulations, and reports – through participating libraries, such as the Indiana State Library and the Westerly Library in Rhode Island.

In addition, the Office annually collects and provides access to thousands of new federal publications to its free online repository, govinfo.gov. To preserve these important documents of our republic, GPO manages a cooperative preservation program with libraries across the country.

Conclusion

Thank you for the opportunity to testify before the Subcommittee in support of the Fiscal Year 2023 requests of the Library of Congress and the Government Publishing Office. We ask for the Subcommittee’s support in meeting the requests for these important national programs that serve Congress, libraries, and the American public.

Sincerely,

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

The American Library Association (“ALA”) is the foremost national organization providing resources to inspire library and information professionals to transform their communities through essential programs and services. For more than 140 years, the ALA has been the trusted voice for academic, public, school, government and special libraries, advocating for the profession and the library's role in enhancing learning and ensuring access to information for all.