

May 22, 2014

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer
Chairman
Committee on Rules & Administration
United States Senate

The Honorable Pat Roberts
Ranking Member
Committee on Rules & Administration
United States Senate

Dear Chairman Schumer and Ranking Member Roberts:

We write to express our appreciation for your continued support of the Government Printing Office (GPO) and to thank you for your leadership in reporting the *Government Publishing Office Act of 2014* (S. 1947) to the full Senate. This important bill would change the name of GPO to the Government Publishing Office, more accurately reflecting GPO's role as the "official, digital, secure" source of federal government information in the digital age.

For more than 150 years, GPO has published and disseminated the essential documents of our democracy. Amidst great progress in the way government information is produced and consumed, GPO has continued to provide access to government materials in multiple formats, using the most efficient technologies. GPO has responded to the changing needs of members of Congress, federal agencies, libraries and members of the public, and today the agency produces, procures, catalogs, indexes, authenticates, disseminates and preserves the official information products of the federal government, making both print and electronic information available to the public at no fee.

On April 30, nearly 300 librarians travelled to GPO's headquarters on North Capitol Street in Washington, D.C. to participate in the 2014 Depository Library Council Meeting and Federal Depository Library Conference. There, Public Printer Davita Vance-Cooks discussed GPO's transformation from a print-centric to a content-centric publishing operation. This change is evidenced by the growth and popularity of FDsys, which has become the trusted source for authentic government information. On April 8, GPO announced it had reached the milestone of one billion document retrievals. We applaud GPO on this impressive achievement.

In addition to renaming the agency, S. 1947 would change the titles of the Public Printer and Deputy Public Printer to Director and Deputy Director, respectively. The bill also removes masculine pronouns in favor of gender neutral terms. As Public Printer Davita Vance-Cooks continues to lead GPO in her historic role as the first African-American and first woman serving in the role of Public Printer, it is clear that *now* is the time to remove outdated masculine references in the law.

We wish to express our thanks to Senator Klobuchar and Senator Chambliss for their introduction of the *Government Publishing Office Act of 2014*. We urge the Senate to take swift action to approve S. 1947, and assist GPO as it moves to transform itself for the digital age.

Sincerely,

American Association of Law Libraries
Association of Academic Health Sciences Libraries
American Library Association
Medical Library Association
Special Libraries Association

CC:
Davita Vance-Cooks, Public Printer of the United States
Mary Alice Baish, Superintendent of Documents
Members of the Senate Committee on Rules & Administration



The American Association of Law Libraries (AALL) was founded in 1906 to promote law libraries' value to the legal and public communities; foster the law librarianship profession; and provide leadership in the legal information field. With nearly 5,000 members, AALL represents law librarians and related professionals who are affiliated with law firms; law schools; corporate legal departments; courts; and local, state and federal government agencies. www.aall.org
Contact: Emily Feltren, (202) 942-4233



The Association of Academic Health Sciences Libraries (AAHSL) supports academic health sciences libraries and directors in advancing the patient care, research, education and community service missions of academic health centers through visionary executive leadership and expertise in health information, scholarly communication, and knowledge management. www.aahsl.org
Contact: A. James Bothmer, (206) 367-8704

ALA American Library Association

The American Library Association is the oldest and largest library association in the world with some 56,000 members, primarily school, public, academic, and some special librarians, but also trustees, publishers, and friends of libraries. The Association provides leadership for the development, promotion, and improvement of library and information services and the profession of librarianship in order to enhance learning and ensure access to information for all. www.ala.org
Contact: Jessica McGilvray, (202) 628-8410



The Medical Library Association (MLA) is a nonprofit, educational organization with more than 4,000 health sciences information professional and institutional members worldwide. Founded in 1898, MLA provides lifelong educational opportunities, supports a knowledgebase of health information research, and works with a global network of partners to promote the importance of quality information for improved health to the health care community and the public. www.mlanet.org
Contact: Mary Langman, (312) 419-9094, ext. 27



The Special Libraries Association (SLA) is a nonprofit global organization for innovative information professionals and their strategic partners. SLA serves about 9,000 members in 75 countries in the information profession, including corporate, academic, and government information specialists. SLA promotes and strengthens its members through learning, advocacy, and networking initiatives. www.sla.org
Contact: Douglas Newcomb, (703) 647-4923