



May 4, 2018

The Honorable Trey Gowdy
Chairman
Committee on Oversight and Government Reform
U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Elijah Cummings
Ranking Member
Committee on Oversight and Government Reform
U.S. House of Representatives

RE: FDLP Modernization Act of 2018 (H.R. 5305) – SUPPORT

Dear Chairman Gowdy and Ranking Member Cummings,

We write in strong support of the FDLP Modernization Act of 2018 (H.R. 5305) and respectfully ask the Committee to promptly advance this commonsense, bipartisan transparency legislation.

The Federal Depository Library Program (FDLP) is a collaboration between the federal government and more than 1,100 participating libraries. The FDLP provides government transparency by helping businesses, the legal system, researchers, and the public to access federal laws, regulations, and other publications. FDLP libraries include, for example, the Spartanburg County (S.C.) Public Libraries, the University of South Carolina’s Thomas Cooper Library and Coleman Karesh Law Library, the Enoch Pratt Free Library in Baltimore, and the University of Maryland School of Law’s Thurgood Marshall Law Library.

The FDLP Modernization Act would update and strengthen this vital program to ensure that members of the public have effective and long-term no-fee access to government information. The bill would streamline program requirements and eliminate outdated rules, update authorities to account for the transition to electronic publishing, and safeguard these invaluable documents of our nation’s history.

Developed following a series of hearings in the Committee on House Administration, the bill has broad support from library organizations as well as the Government Publishing Office. We ask for the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform’s support to promptly bring the bill to the House floor.

Sincerely,

Kathi Kromer
Associate Executive Director
American Library Association

Prudence S. Adler
Associate Executive Director
Association of Research Libraries

Emily Feltren
Director of Government Relations
American Association of Law Libraries

Timothy Cherubini
Executive Director
Chief Officers of State Library Agencies