

Written Testimony of Ms. Diane M. Rodriguez  
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For the Hearing Record


Fiscal Year 2023 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 20, 2022

Dear Chairman Reed, Ranking Member Braun, and Members of the Subcommittee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on behalf



AALL supports the FY 2023 funding requests of the GPO and the Library of Congress because this funding will allow these agencies to continue to build valuable partnerships with law libraries and other stakeholders, pursue digitization initiatives, and expand projects that provide greater access to current and historical legal information in print and online. We urge the Subcommittee to approve the FY 2023 funding requests of the GPO and the Library of Congress.

### 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. Approximately 200 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 also frequently use the govinfo website to support the legal research needs of law library 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 for the first time.

AALL urges the Subcommittee to approve the GPO's FY 2023 funding request of \$130.9 million. The request will provide the funds the GPO needs to make federal government publications available to federal depository libraries in digital and print formats. AALL is supportive of the goals of the GPO's new task force to study the feasibility of an all-digital FDLP, which comes at a time when some law libraries are updating their collection development policies to select more electronic resources because of changing patron preferences due to the COVID-19 pandemic or for other reasons.

The GPO's funding will also be used to develop the govinfo website, which provides free public access to official publications such as bills and statutes, federal regulations, and federal court opinions. We are excited about the GPO's plans to collaborate with federal partners and libraries to add more information to the govinfo website. Adding information such as historical agency documents and Congressional reports and hearings to govinfo will promote the principles of open, equitable, and reliable public access to legal information that are described in the AALL Guiding Principles for Public Access to Legal Information on Government Websites (AALL Guiding Principles).



AALL is proud that GP



## Conclusion

AALL appreciates the opportunity to provide written testimony in support of the FY 2023 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 2023 Legislative Branch funding bill.