

50 East Huron Street  
Chicago, Illinois 60611-2795  
USA

Telephone 312 944 6780  
Fax 312 440 9374  
Toll Free 800 545 2433  
E-mail: [ala@ala.org](mailto:ala@ala.org)  
[www.ala.org](http://www.ala.org)

# ALA American Library Association

September 15, 2017

The Honorable Gregg Harper, Chairman  
The Honorable Robert Brady, Ranking Member  
Committee on House Administration  
United States House of Representatives  
1309 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Modernizing Title 44 to Ensure Public Access to Government Information

Dear Chairman Harper and Ranking Member Brady:

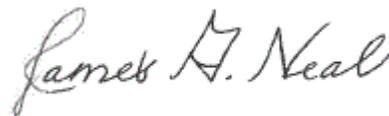
On behalf of the more than 57,000 members of the American Library Association (ALA), I am pleased to provide the Committee with initial recommendations for modernizing Title 44 of the U.S. Code and the Federal Depository Library Program (FDLP). ALA thanks you for addressing these issues and welcomes the opportunity to discuss reforms to strengthen this valuable program and ensure the public's ready access to information about, and produced by, its government.

Libraries help the public find, use and understand government information. Through their decades-long partnership with the FDLP, libraries collect, catalog, preserve and provide reference services to support a wide array of users, including business owners, lawyers, researchers, students of every age and citizens.

Since many provisions of Title 44 were last revised in the 1960s, however, some aspects of the law have become so outdated that they now hinder the FDLP's continued ability to serve these vital purposes. To carry the FDLP's legacy forward into the 21<sup>st</sup> century, ALA recommends the reforms detailed in the attached materials to achieve three primary goals: strengthen library partnerships, ensure the long-term preservation of government information and improve the digital collection and distribution of FDLP publications.

ALA looks forward to working with the Committee to ensure that information about our republic remains accessible to all Americans. We look forward to working closely with you as the reform process progresses. Please contact Gavin Baker of ALA's Office of Government Relations at [gbaker@alawash.org](mailto:gbaker@alawash.org) if we can provide additional assistance at any time.

Respectfully submitted,



James G. Neal, President

cc: Members of the Committee