



November 18, 2019

The Honorable Roy Blunt
Chairman
Committee on Rules & Administration
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Amy Klobuchar
Ranking Member
Committee on Rules & Administration
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Blunt and Ranking Member Klobuchar:

The undersigned library associations are pleased to endorse Hugh Nathaniel Halpern for confirmation as the next Director of the Government Publishing Office (GPO).

Libraries and their users depend on GPO to provide free and permanent public access to official information from all three branches of government. GPO administers the Federal Depository Library Program, a collaboration with more than 1,100 libraries nationwide to ensure all Americans can access vital federal information; its online repository, govinfo.gov; Congressional publishing; and other activities to collect, catalog, and preserve government publications.

We believe Mr. Halpern shares our commitment to maintaining and modernizing these critical GPO services. In his nomination hearing and in meeting with us, Mr. Halpern presented a compelling vision for how GPO can strengthen its relationships with its partners and customers and can transform its publishing practices to improve transparency and efficiency. As a long-time customer of GPO, Mr. Halpern would bring an important perspective to developing the agency's services, with a welcome focus on responsiveness, innovation, and collaboration.

As GPO has lacked a Director for the past two years, it is crucial that the Senate now confirm a nominee with this experience and vision. We urge the Committee to promptly advance Mr. Halpern's nomination to carry forward GPO's motto of "Keeping America Informed." If you have any questions, please contact Emily Feltren at efeltren@aall.org or (312) 205-8010.

Sincerely,

American Association of Law Libraries (AALL)
American Library Association (ALA)
Association of Research Libraries (ARL)