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September 25, 2018

The Honorable Ron Johnson
Committee on Homeland Security and
Governmental Affairs
U.S. Senate

The Honorable Claire McCaskill
Committee on Homeland Security and
Governmental Affairs
U.S. Senate

Re: S. 3484, Grant Reporting Efficiency and Agreements Transparency Act of 2018

Dear Chairman Johnson, Ranking Member McCaskill, and members of the committee,

On behalf of the American Library Association (ALA), we write to urge your support for S. 3484, the Grant Reporting Efficiency and Agreements Transparency Act of 2018 (GREAT Act), which would modernize reporting by recipients of Federal grants and improve access to grant data.

Federal grants from the Institute of Museum and Library Services and other agencies are a small but critical source of support for America's libraries. The GREAT Act would streamline paperwork requirements for grantees, allowing libraries to put federal dollars to their best use.

By establishing government-wide data standards for grant reporting, the GREAT Act would reduce burdens on grant recipients and foster the development of new technology solutions for reporting requirements. Importantly, the GREAT Act would require the standard-setting agency to consult with recipients and to minimize disruption to grantees. Finally, the new data standards would improve public access to information about federal grants and the vital activities they enable.

We appreciate the leadership of Senators Lankford and Enzi in introducing S. 3484, and we urge your support. If you have any questions, please contact Gavin Baker (gbaker@alawash.org).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kathi Kromer". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kathi Kromer
Associate Executive Director
American Library Association

The American Library Association (ALA) is the foremost national organization providing resources to inspire library and information professionals to transform their communities through essential programs and services. For more than 140 years, the ALA has been the trusted voice for academic, public, school, government and special libraries, advocating for the profession and the library's role in enhancing learning and ensuring access to information for all.