

**Testimony of  
Gavin Baker, Deputy Director, Public Policy and Government Relations  
American Library Association**

**Regarding the  
Library of Congress  
and the  
Government Publishing Office**

**Before the Senate Committee on Appropriations  
Subcommittee on the Legislative Branch  
Public Witness Testimony for Fiscal Year 2023  
May 24, 2022**

Chair Reed, Ranking Member Braun, and Members of the Subcommittee:

On behalf of the American Library Association, thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony regarding Legislative Branch Appropriations for Fiscal Year 2023. We respectfully request the Committee's support for the Library of Congress and the Government Publishing Office, which provide important services to libraries and residents nationwide.

**Library of Congress**

The Library of Congress not only serves Congress, but also delivers important benefits for libraries across the country and the American public.

After several years of investment in the Library's Visitor Experience Initiative, the first phase is expected to open in fall 2023. Carrying through on these investments will

publications – including federal laws, regulations, and reports – through participating libraries, such as the Indiana State Library and the Westerly Library in Rhode Island.

In addition, the Office annually collects and provides access to thousands of new federal publications to its free online repository, govinfo.gov. To preserve these important documents of our republic, GPO manages a cooperative preservation program with libraries across the country.

### **Conclusion**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify before the Subcommittee in support of the Fiscal Year 2023 requests of the Library of Congress and the Government Publishing Office. We ask for the Subcommittee's support in meeting the requests for these important national programs that serve Congress, libraries, and the American public.

Sincerely,

Gavin Baker  
Deputy Director, Public Policy and Government Relations  
American Library Association

*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.*