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U.S. GOVERNMENT
INFORMATION
GPO

LEGISLATIVE BRANCH APPROPRIATIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2018

U.S. SENATE,
SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS,
Washington, DC.

[CLERK'S NOTE.—The subcommittee was unable to hold hearings on departmental and nondepartmental witnesses. The statements and letters of those submitting written testimony are as follows:]

DEPARTMENTAL WITNESSES

PREPARED STATEMENT OF THE GOVERNMENT PUBLISHING OFFICE

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Subcommittee on Legislative Branch Appropriations, I am pleased to present the appropriations request of the U.S. Government Publishing Office (GPO) for fiscal year 2018.

THE U.S. GOVERNMENT PUBLISHING OFFICE

GPO is the OFFICIAL, DIGITAL, SECURE resource for producing, procuring, cataloging, indexing, authenticating, disseminating, and preserving the official information products of the Federal Government.

Under Title 44 of the U.S. Code, GPO is responsible for the production and distribution of information products for all three branches of the Government, including the official publications of Congress and the White House, U.S. passports for the Department of State, and the official publications of other Federal agencies and the courts. Once primarily a printing operation, we are now an integrated publishing operation and carry out our mission using an expanding range of digital as well as conventional formats. In 2014, Congress and the President recognized this change in Public Law 113–235, which contains a provision re-designating GPO's official name as the Government Publishing Office. We currently employ about 1,700 staff.

Along with sales of publications in digital and tangible formats to the public, we support openness and transparency in Government by providing permanent public access to Federal Government information at no charge through our Federal Digital System (FDsys, at www.fdsys.gov) and its newly introduced successor system govinfo (www.govinfo.gov). Today these systems make more than 1.6 million Federal titles available online from both GPO and links to servers in other agencies. In 2016 FDsys averaged nearly 40 million retrievals per month. We also provide public access to Government information through partnerships with 1,148 Federal, academic, public, law, and other libraries nationwide participating in the Federal Depository Library Program (FDLP).

In addition to GPO's Web site, gpo.gov, we communicate with the public routinely via Facebook facebook.com/USGPO, Twitter twitter.com/USGPO, YouTube youtube.com/user/gpoprinter, Instagram instagram.com/usgpo, LinkedIn linkedin.com/company/u.s.-government-printing-office, and Pinterest pinterest.com/usgpo/.

History

From the Mayflower Compact to the Declaration of Independence and the papers leading to the creation and ratification of the Constitution, America is a nation based on documents, and our governmental tradition since then has reflected that fact. Article I, section 5 of the Constitution requires that "each House shall keep a journal of its proceedings and from time to time publish the same." After years of struggling with various systems of contracting for printed documents that were beset with scandal and corruption, in 1860 Congress created the Government Print-

ing Office as its official printer. GPO first opened its doors for business on March 4, 1861, the same day Abraham Lincoln was inaugurated as the 16th President.

Since that time, GPO has produced and distributed the official version of every great American state paper and an uncounted number of other Government publications, documents, and forms. These documents include the Emancipation Proclamation, the legislative publications and acts of Congress, Social Security cards, Medicare and Medicaid information, census forms, tax forms, citizenship forms, passports, military histories ranging from the *Official Records of the War of the Rebellion* to the latest accounts of our forces in Afghanistan, the *9/11 Commission Report,* Presidential inaugural addresses, and Supreme Court opinions. GPO's work to keep America informed goes on today, in both digital as well as print forms.

Strategic Vision

GPO is transforming from a print-centric to a content-centric publishing operation. Our implementation of a digital transformation is consistent with the recommendations submitted by the National Academy of Public Administration (*Rebooting the Government Printing Office: Keeping America Informed in the Digital Age,* January 2013) regarding our transition to a digital future.

GPO is developing an integrated, diversified product and services portfolio that focuses primarily on digital. At the same time, we recognize that some tangible print will continue to be required because of official use, archival purposes, authenticity, specific industry requirements, and segments of the population that either have limited or no access to digital formats, though its use will continue to decline.

Strategic Plan

Our strategic plan, which is available for public review at gpo.gov/about, is built around four goals: satisfying our stakeholders, offering products and services, strengthening our organizational foundation, and engaging our workforce. The plan provides the blueprint for how GPO will continue to achieve its mission of Keeping America Informed with an emphasis on being OFFICIAL, DIGITAL, SECURE. GPO's senior managers convene at the beginning of each fiscal year to review the plan and approve the Annual Performance Plan, also available at gpo.gov.

Our customers are involved in the digital world and understand technological change. Accordingly, it is important that we foster an environment that embraces change and innovation, which leads to new ways of thinking, new work processes, and the development of new products and services for our customers. Tangible printing at GPO is being supplanted by an exponential growth in digital requirements by Congress and Federal agencies. Moreover, the public—including the library and Government information user communities—has signaled its strong desire for increased access to Government information digitally.

In transforming the way we do business, we are focusing on managing content for customer and public use both today and tomorrow. GPO uses its extensive experience and expertise with digital systems to provide both permanent public access to Government information in a variety of formats and the most efficient and effective means for printing when required, all within a secure setting that is responsive to the customer's needs.

GPO AND CONGRESS

For the Clerk of the House, the Secretary of the Senate, and the committees of the House and the Senate, GPO publishes the documents and publications required by the legislative and oversight processes of Congress in digital and tangible formats. This includes the daily *Congressional Record,* bills, reports, legislative calendars, hearings, committee prints, and documents, as well as stationery, franked envelopes, memorials and condolence books, programs and invitations, phone books, and the other products needed to conduct the business of Congress. We also detail expert staff to support the publishing requirements of House and Senate committees and congressional offices such as the House and Senate Offices of Legislative Counsel. We work with Congress to ensure the provision of these services under any circumstances.

Today the activities associated with creating congressional information databases comprise the majority of the work funded by our annual Congressional Publishing Appropriation. Our advanced digital authentication system, supported by public key infrastructure (PKI), is an essential component for assuring the digital security of congressional publications. The databases we build are made available for providing access to congressional publications in digital formats as well as their production in tangible formats.

GPO's congressional information databases also form the building blocks of other information systems supporting Congress. For example, they are provided directly

to the Library of Congress to support its Congress.gov system as well as the legislative information systems the Library makes available to House and Senate offices. We work with the Library to prepare summaries and status information for House and Senate bills in XML bulk data format. We are also collaborating with the Library on the digitization of historic printed documents, such as the *Congressional Record,* to make them more broadly available to Congress and the public.

GPO AND FEDERAL AGENCIES

Federal agencies are major generators of information in the United States, and GPO produces their information products for official use and public access. Federal agencies and the public also rely on a growing variety of secure credentials that we produce, including travelers holding U.S. passports, members of the public who cross our borders frequently, and other users. Our digital systems support key Federal agency publications, including the annual *Budget of the U.S. Government* and, most importantly, the *Federal Register* and associated products. As it does for congressional documents, our digital authentication system, supported by public key infrastructure (PKI), assures the digital security of agency documents.

Partnership with Industry

Other than congressional and inherently governmental work such as the *Federal Register,* the *Budget,* and security and intelligent documents, we produce virtually all other Federal agency information products via contracts with the private sector printing and information product industry issued by our central office and regional GPO offices around the country. In 2016, this work was valued at approximately $360 million, an increase of 6.5 percent over the previous year. More than 9,000 individual firms are registered to do business with us, the vast majority of whom are small businesses averaging 20 employees per firm. Contracts are awarded on a purely competitive basis; there are no set-asides or preferences in contracting other than what is specified in law and regulation, including a requirement for Buy American.

This partnership provides significant economic opportunity for the private sector. We have long advocated that where Federal agency printing is required, this partnership is the most cost-effective way of producing it. In 2013, the Government Accountability Office conducted a study at the request of the Joint Committee on Printing that identified approximately 80 Federal printing plants still in operation government-wide (http://www.gao.gov/assets/660/655936.pdf). Additional savings for taxpayers could occur if the work these plants are producing is transferred instead to GPO's shared services partnership with the private sector printing and information product industry.

Security and Intelligent Documents

For nearly a century GPO has been responsible for producing the U.S. passport for the Department of State (DOS). At one time no more than a conventionally printed document, the U.S. passport since 2005 has incorporated a digital chip and antenna array capable of carrying biometric identification data. With other security printing features, this document—which we produce in Washington, DC, as well as a secure remote facility in Mississippi—is now the most secure identification credential obtainable. In 2016, GPO produced 20,199,550 passports, an increase of 32.9 percent from the year before. Over the past decade GPO has produced more than 140 million passports for DOS. Throughout 2016, we continued with facility changes and equipment installation and testing in support of the planned next generation passport.

Since 2008, we have also served as an integrator of secure identification smart cards to support the credentialing requirements of Federal agencies and other Government entities. We have been certified by the General Services Administration (GSA) to graphically personalize Homeland Security Presidential Directive 12 (HSPD–12) cards for Federal agencies. GSA certified that we comply with Federal Information Processing Standard 201, which sets requirements to ensure that identification cards are secure and resistant to fraud.

To date, we have produced more than 12.9 million secure credential cards across 10 different product lines. Among them are the Trusted Traveler Program's (TTP) family of border crossing cards—NEXUS, SENTRI, FAST, and Global Entry—for the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), which are used by frequent travelers across U.S. borders. Another card produced for DHS is the Transportation Worker Identity Card (TWIC). We produce a Border Crossing Card (BCC) that is issued by the DOS for authorized travel across the Mexican border. We also produce secure law enforcement credentials for the U.S. Capitol Police that are used in Presidential inaugurations. The work GPO does in this field is well-known among the Federal

agencies that need these products, and has been thoroughly validated by the Government Accountability Office in a 2015 report to Congress http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-15-326R and the National Academy of Public Administration's 2013 report on GPO.

GPO AND OPEN, TRANSPARENT GOVERNMENT

Producing and distributing the official publications and information products of the Government fulfills an informing role originally envisioned by the Founders, as James Madison once said:

> "A popular Government without popular information, or the means of acquiring it, is but a Prologue to a Farce or a Tragedy, or perhaps both. Knowledge will forever govern ignorance, and a people who mean to be their own Governors, must arm themselves with the power which knowledge gives."

GPO operates a variety of programs and activities that provide the public with "the means of acquiring" Government information that Madison spoke of. These programs include the Federal Depository Library program (FDLP), FDsys and govinfo, Publications Information Sales, Reimbursable Distribution, and social media.

Federal Depository Library Program

The FDLP has legislative antecedents that date to 1813 (3 Stat. 140), when Congress first authorized congressional documents to be deposited at the American Antiquarian Society in Worcester, Massachusetts, for the use of the public. Since then, Federal depository libraries have served as critical links between "We the People" and the information made available by the Federal Government. GPO provides the libraries with information products in digital and, in some cases, tangible formats, and the libraries in turn make them available to the public at no charge while providing additional assistance to depository library users.

The FDLP today serves millions of Americans through a network of 1,148 public, academic, law, and other libraries located across the Nation, averaging nearly three per congressional district. Once limited to the distribution of printed and microfiche products, the FDLP today is primarily digital, supported by FDsys and govinfo along with other digital resources. This overwhelming reliance on digital content allowed for the first digital-only Federal depository library designation in 2014. In fiscal year 2016, one new Federal depository library was designated as digital-only, while three existing depository libraries converted to all-digital status.

Federal Digital System (FDsys)

We have been providing access to digital congressional and Federal agency documents since 1994 under the provisions of Public Law 103–40, beginning with a site known as GPO Access. Fifteen years later, GPO Access was retired and a significantly re-engineered site debuted as GPO's Federal Digital System. FDsys provides the majority of congressional and Federal agency content to the FDLP as well as other online users.

Online access to Federal documents made available by GPO has reduced the cost of providing public access to Government information significantly when compared with print, while expanding public access dramatically through the Internet. In 2016, FDsys grew to make more than 1.6 million titles from the legislative, executive, and judicial branches available online from our servers and through links to other agencies and institutions. The system averaged nearly 40 million retrievals per month.

Govinfo

In early 2016, we unveiled the next generation of our public access system with the introduction of govinfo. Though in beta, govinfo improves upon FDsys with a modern, easy-to-use look and feel that syncs with the need of today's Government information users for quick and effective digital access across a variety of digital platforms. Following a period of testing and iteratively developing the system's features, govinfo will become GPO's primary public access system—the third such system since we inaugurated online access in 1994—and FDsys will be retired from service.

Publication and Information Sales Program

Along with the FDLP and our online dissemination system, which are no-fee public access programs, GPO provides access to official Federal information through public sales featuring secure ordering through an online bookstore (bookstore.gpo.gov), a bookstore at GPO headquarters in Washington, DC, and partnerships with the private sector that offer Federal publications as eBooks. As a one-

stop shop for eBook design, conversion, and dissemination, our presence in the eBook market continues to grow. We now have agreements with Apple iTunes, Google Play, Barnes & Noble, OverDrive, Zinio, EBSCO, ProQuest and other online vendors to make popular Government titles such as the *Public Papers of the President-Barack Obama, Unsettled: A Story of U.S. Immigration,* and *Workout to Go* available as eBooks. We also offer a print-on-demand service for sales titles through Amazon and others, which enables us to offer more titles and avoid the expense of additional warehousing.

Reimbursable Distribution Program

We operate distribution programs for the information products of other Federal agencies on a reimbursable basis, including the General Services Administration (GSA) and the Federal Trade Commission (FTC), from our facilities in Pueblo, Colorado, and Laurel, Maryland. This program saves money for participating agencies by permitting them to take advantage of GPO's centralized capabilities and economies of scale.

GPO and Social Media

We use Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, Instagram, LinkedIn, Pinterest, and a blog to share information about GPO news and events and to promote specific publications and products. By the end of 2016, we had 7,530 likes on Facebook, 7,053 followers on Twitter, and 189,253 views across 75 videos on YouTube. On Pinterest, we had 749 followers pinning on 17 boards of Federal Government information. We also had 569 followers with 930 posts on Instagram and 3,069 followers on LinkedIn. Our blog, Government Book Talk, focuses on increasing the awareness of new and classic Federal publications through reviews and discussions.

GPO'S FINANCES

Business Operations Revolving Fund

All GPO activities are financed through our Business Operations Revolving Fund, established by section 309 of Title 44, U.S.C. This business-like fund is used to pay all of our costs in performing congressional and agency publishing, information product procurement, and publication dissemination activities. It is reimbursed from payments from customer agencies, sales to the public, and transfers from our two annual appropriations: the Congressional Publishing Appropriation and the Public Information Programs of the Superintendent of Documents Appropriation.

Retained Earnings

Under GPO's system of accrual accounting, annual earnings generated since the inception of the Business Operations Revolving Fund have been accumulated as retained earnings. Retained earnings make it possible for us to fund a significant amount of technology modernization. However, appropriations for essential investments in technology and plant upgrades are requested when necessary.

Annual Audit

GPO is accountable for its finances. Each year, GPO's finances and financial controls are audited by an independent outside audit firm working under contract with GPO's Office of Inspector General. For fiscal year 2016, the audit concluded with GPO earning an "unmodified," or clean, opinion on its finances, the 20th consecutive year GPO has earned such an audit result.

Appropriated Funds

GPO's Congressional Publishing Appropriation is used to reimburse the Business Operations Revolving Fund for the costs of publishing the documents required for the use of Congress in digital and tangible formats, as authorized by the provisions of chapters 7 and 9 of Title 44, U.S.C. The Public Information Programs of the Superintendent of Documents Appropriation is used to pay for the costs associated with providing online access to, and the distribution of, publications to Federal depository libraries, cataloging and indexing, statutory distribution, and international exchange distribution. The reimbursements from these appropriations are included in the Business Operations Revolving Fund as revenue for work performed.

Fiscal Year 2016 Financial Results

Revenue totaled $875.3 million while expenses charged against GPO's budget were $804.1 million, for an overall net income of $71.2 million from operations. Included in both GPO's revenue and net income is approximately $24.7 million in funds set aside for passport-related capital investments, as agreed to by GPO and the Department of State, and $0.4 million in funds resulting from a downward ad-

justment to GPO's long-term workers' compensation liability under the Federal Employees Compensation Act (FECA). Apart from these funds, GPO's net operating income from fiscal year 2016 was $46.1 million.

Funds appropriated directly by Congress provided nearly $118.8 million (including funds from the Congressional Publishing and Public Information Programs appropriations, along with appropriations to the Business Operations Revolving Fund), or about 14 percent of total revenue. All other GPO activities, including in-plant publishing (which includes the production of passports), procured work, sales of publications, agency distribution services, and all administrative support functions, were financed through the Business Operations Revolving Fund by revenues generated by payments from agencies and sales to the public.

FISCAL YEAR 2018 APPROPRIATIONS REQUEST

GPO is requesting a total of $117,068,000 for fiscal year 2018, the same as the fiscal year 2017 level. Total GPO appropriations have declined by nearly 21 percent since fiscal year 2010. Our continued transition to digital technologies and products has increased our productivity and reduced costs. Additionally, maintaining financial controls on our overhead costs, coupled with a buyout in fiscal year 2015 that reduced GPO's workforce by 103 positions, has helped make this funding request possible. Finally, the utilization of the unexpended balances of prior year appropriations, which we are able to transfer to GPO's Business Operations Revolving Fund with the approval of the Appropriations Committees, has made it possible in recent years to hold the line on the level of new funding we request.

TOTAL APPROPRIATIONS TO GPO

Fiscal Year 2010–2017

Fiscal Year	Appropriation
2010	$ 147,461,000
2011	135,067,324
2012	126,200,000
2013	117,533,423
2014	119,300,000
2015	119,993,000
2016	117,068,000
2017	117,068,000

Our fiscal year 2018 request will enable us to:

—meet projected requirements for congressional publishing;
—fund the operation of the public information programs of the Superintendent of Documents; and
—develop information technology, including IT security, and perform facilities maintenance and repairs that support our congressional publishing and public information programs operations.

Congressional Publishing Appropriation

We are requesting $79,528,000 for this account, which is less than the amount approved for fiscal year 2017. This appropriation has declined by 15 percent since fiscal year 2010, as the result of our continuing transition to digital technology and products as well as actions taken in cooperation with the House of Representatives and the Senate to control congressional publishing costs. Unspent prior year balances from this account that have been transferred to GPO's Business Operations Revolving Fund for the purposes of this account have also been used to maintain our requirements for new funding at a flat level since 2014.

CONGRESSIONAL PUBLISHING APPROPRIATION

Fiscal Year 2010–2017

Fiscal Year	Appropriation
2010	$ 93,768,000
2011	93,580,464
2012	90,700,000
2013	82,129,576

CONGRESSIONAL PUBLISHING APPROPRIATION—Continued

Fiscal Year 2010–2017

Fiscal Year	Appropriation
2014	79,736,000
2015	79,736,000
2016	79,736,000
2017	79,736,000

Our request for this appropriation is an estimate of the amount of work Congress is likely to requisition from GPO for fiscal year 2018, based on historical data. GPO has no control over the workload requirements of the Congressional Publishing Appropriation. These are determined by the legislative activities and requirements of the House of Representatives and the Senate as authorized by the applicable provisions of Title 44, U.S.C. GPO utilizes historical data incorporating other relevant factors to develop estimates of likely congressional publishing requirements. These requirements are used as the basis of the budget presentation for this account.

The estimated requirements for fiscal year 2018 include no price level changes. We anticipate an overall reduction of $208,000 from current year requirements based on projected volume decreases in virtually every congressional product category except for business and committee calendars, the *Congressional Record,* and hearings.

Commensurate with the beginning of the 115th Congress we began implementing, in cooperation of offices of the Clerk of the House and the Secretary of the Senate, a new composition system that will enable GPO to compose congressional bills in XML. The estimated savings from this new system have not yet been fully determined but it is expected to reduce costs as a result of expediting the production process for these documents. The new composition system will be expanded to additional congressional products in the future. Additionally, we are developing a new composition capability for House hearings following a plan designed by the Committee on House Administration, which is also expected to reduce costs and improve efficiency.

The unexpended balances of prior year appropriations that have been transferred to GPO's Business Operations Revolving Fund will be used to offset anticipated congressional product requirements. The balance of these funds is earmarked for the development of our new composition system and other projects that may be required of us, including those supporting the objectives of the Legislative Branch Bulk Data Working Group.

Public Information Programs of the Superintendent of Documents

We are requesting $29,000,000 for this account, representing a decrease of $500,000 or 1.7 percent from the fiscal year 2017 appropriation. This appropriation has declined by more than 27 percent since fiscal year 2010, as the result of our continuing transition to digital technology and products which has made the increased dissemination of official Government information to the public less costly and more efficient.

PUBLIC INFORMATION PROGRAMS OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF DOCUMENTS APPROPRIATION

Fiscal Year 2010–2017

Fiscal Year	Appropriation
2010	$ 40,911,000
2011	39,831,178
2012	35,000,000
2013	31,437,000
2014	31,500,000
2015	31,500,000
2016	30,500,000
2017	29,500,000

The funding we are requesting for fiscal year 2018 will cover mandatory pay and related cost increases for 89 FTE's, the same as for fiscal year 2017. Requirements

for new funding have also been reduced by a decrease in printing costs due to digitization and the use of prior year funds as approved by the Appropriations Committees. These funds will be used to pay for projects including strengthening public access to online information by continuing to build gov.info, and to investigate, develop, and replace legacy methods for the selection and distribution of digital and tangible materials to Federal depository libraries.

Business Operations Revolving Fund

We are requesting $8,540,000 for this account, to remain available until expended, for information technology projects, including essential cybersecurity measures, and necessary facilities projects. This is an increase over the $7,832,000 appropriated in fiscal year 2017. Funding provided to this account represents an increase to working capital for specified projects. Since fiscal year 2013, these projects have consistently included improvements to GPO's FDsys (and its successor system, gov.info), which has expanded public access to congressional and other Government information products in digital formats while decreasing the costs of distributing traditional print formats, as well as other essential IT projects. Our request this year includes necessary expenses associated with enhancing the cybersecurity of GPO's IT systems, as we have communicated to the Legislative Branch Cybersecurity Working Group. We also fund necessary physical infrastructure projects through appropriations to this account.

APPROPRIATIONS TO THE BUSINESS OPERATIONS REVOLVING FUND

Fiscal year 2010–2017

Fiscal Year	Appropriation
2010	$ 12,782,000
2011	1,655,682
2012	500,000
2013	3,966,847
2014	8,064,000
2015	8,757,000
2016	6,832,000
2017	7,832,000

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY PROJECTS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2018—$7,000,000

Gov.info Projects—$5,000,000

—*General System and Collection Development ($3,800,000)*.—Development of new FDsys/govinfo features to support identified needs of key stakeholders, including developing new content collections, increasing content in existing collections, enhancing the accessibility of content, and increasing the discoverability of information.

—*FDsys/gov.info Infrastructure ($1,200,000)*.—Infrastructure for the hardware, storage, and environments to manage system performance as FDsys/govinfo content and usage continues to grow.

Cybersecurity Projects—$2,000,000

—*Security Enhancements for Advanced Persistent Threat ($2,00,000)*.—Required for enhanced technologies and services to combat, detect, and prevent advanced persistent threats (including sophisticated nation-state actors) from compromising GPO IT systems.

FACILITIES INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2018—$1,540,000

—*Elevator Repairs ($900,000)*.—Elevators 3 and 4 at GPO's G Street entrance are aging and need frequent repairs. We intend to replace and upgrade these elevators with modern controls and security features. These elevators also support employee life/safety by providing a means for evacuation of medical emergencies.

—*Emergency Power Generator ($500,000)*.—This will replace GPO's existing diesel emergency generator with one using clean-burning natural gas. It will also increase the electrical load that can be supported in the event of an emergency, such as we experienced in 2015 with a power outage by PEPCO.

—*LED Lighting ($140,000)*.—Infrastructure for the hardware, storage, and environments to manage system performance as govinfo content and usage continue to grow.

Mr. Chairman and Members of the subcommittee, this concludes my prepared statement, and I would be pleased to answer any questions you may have.

[This statement was submitted by Davita Vance-Cooks, Director.]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF THE OFFICE OF COMPLIANCE

Chairman Moran, Ranking Member Schatz and Members of the Legislative Branch Subcommittee, thank you for allowing me the opportunity to submit for the record this statement regarding the budget request for fiscal year 2018 for the Congressional Office of Compliance (OOC).

Congress created the OOC to administer the Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 (CAA) and the 13 Federal workplace laws incorporated in the law. We ensure the integrity of a dispute resolution system, carry out an education and training program that assists employing offices and covered employees in understanding their rights and responsibilities under the CAA, advise Congress on needed changes and amendments to the CAA, and investigate and enforce the CAA's occupational safety and health protections, public access rights for persons with disabilities, and unfair labor practice provisions.

The OOC is requesting $4,055,902 for fiscal year 2018 operations, which represents a 2.4 percent increase from the fiscal year 2017 enacted level. Of the additional $96,902 that is being requested, 87 percent reflects a projected increase in personnel, benefits, and other personnel compensation. The remaining fiscal year 2018 budget request focuses on supporting the most important aspects of the statutory functions of the OOC and improving the delivery of services to the covered community.

ADMINISTRATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION PROGRAM

The cornerstone of the CAA is the confidential administrative dispute resolution (ADR) process, which consists of counseling, mediation, and adjudicative hearings and appeals. The OOC staff remains committed to administering an effective ADR program by providing a neutral, efficient, and confidential process for resolving workplace disputes. We strive to ensure that stakeholders have full access to these ADR procedures.

We continue to improve our newly-launched electronic case management system to bring the OOC's procedures in line with current best practices. This electronic functionality dramatically increases our efficiency by enabling us to streamline delivery of our services to the congressional community, as well as to trend data and generate detailed reports.

EDUCATION AND OUTREACH PROGRAM

Along with providing an effective ADR program, the OOC administers an Education and Outreach program for the covered community. The most effective investment an organization can make in preventing discrimination continues to be a comprehensive training program. Our education programs also emphasize the benefits of fair and inclusive work environments on workforce productivity.

Our education and outreach efforts have recently migrated to a digital based platform. This shift in focus is essential in carrying out our statutory training mandate. To continue to fulfill the education mandate in the CAA, our budget request reflects the need to further expand our efforts and include technical enhancements to allow additional and more interactive modules in our online and interactive Learning Management System.

We also remain dedicated to in-person training on important topics of workplace safety and health and fairness. The OOC requests an additional FTE, and the funding to support an increase in staffing, to hire an educator and respond to employing offices' needs for in-person training on workplace rights. Currently, OOC staff members provide in-person training along with a myriad of other duties including internal communications, government affairs, litigation, and public relations. However, there is no FTE solely responsible for instructing the entire legislative branch. The OOC needs at least one additional staff member to exclusively develop and deliver training to the covered community. This will significantly advance our education program and allow us to work more closely with the human resources staff of the employing offices, thus ensuring that covered employees are informed of their rights and responsibilities under the CAA as mandated by Congress in 1995.

SAFETY AND HEALTH, PUBLIC ACCESS, AND UNFAIR LABOR PRACTICES

Our budget request also reflects the OOC's continuing efforts to ensure safe and accessible congressional workplaces through its OSH and ADA biennial inspections, as well as its case work investigating and abating safety issues, finding and removing barriers to access in congressional facilities and programs, and investigating and resolving allegations of unfair labor practices. By working directly with the AOC, the USCP, and other offices on the Hill, the OOC has been instrumental in the development and implementation of cost-effective solutions to safety and access problems and in the resolution of unfair labor practice charges. We recently completed our biennial inspections for the 114th Congress and, in partnership with the National Safety Council, issued Safety Recognition Awards to the Member offices that were found to be hazard-free during the OSH inspection. During the 115th Congress, the OOC will continue to stress safety and health for all Member offices.

The balance of the 2.4 percent increase covers increases in contract services, including cross servicing providers, equipment, supplies and other services needed to operate the OOC. The services include professional development of the staff and technical support to boost our presence in the ever-growing social media environment on the Hill, which presents an opportunity to highlight best practices and provide important information to employees who have little time for training updates.

The OOC staff and I are available to answer any questions or address any concerns the Chair of the subcommittee or its Members may have.

[This statement was submitted by Susan Tsui Grundmann, Executive Director.]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF THE OPEN WORLD LEADERSHIP CENTER

Chairman Lankford, Ranking Member Murphy, and Members of the subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to present written testimony on the Open World Leadership Center.

Overview: I appreciate the opportunity to offer testimony on behalf of the Open World Leadership Center. The Open World Leadership Center (Open World or the Center) has served Congress through its international professional exchange program since our inception in 1999.

The Center administers the Open World program, one of the most effective American exchange programs for emerging democracies. The program has enabled more than 26,000 global leaders to engage and interact with Members of Congress, Congressional staff, and thousands of other Americans, many of whom are the delegates' direct professional counterparts.

The Open World program focuses on assisting Congress in its oversight responsibilities and on conducting exchanges that establish lasting professional relationships between the up-and-coming leaders of Open World countries and Americans dedicated to showcasing U.S. values and democratic institutions. The Center's nonpartisan nature as a legislative branch agency, independent from the priorities of any presidential administration, is an important asset of the program and of the Congress. The Open World program brings emerging Federal and regional political leaders to the United States to meet their American counterparts and gain firsthand knowledge of how American civil society works. This hands-on and close up look at our processes—and the people who run them—has a unique impact on our delegates. The Open World experience provides the impetus for improvement; delegates return home and set to work creating change based on the models they have seen.

The "Soft" Power of Exchange: The elected officials and young professionals from across the former Soviet states and other countries who, thanks to Congress, come on the Open World program each year have seen the best of America up close and personal. They go back to their homes with an improved impression of our country and they share their positive impressions with their friends, family, community, and professional counterparts. These are the people that go into elected office, run cities, teach the next generation, and craft the foreign policy that directly affects the United States.

Open World's Legislative Branch Identity: A question that I hear every so often is, "Why is the Open World Leadership Center in the Legislative Branch?" The answer to this is simply that the placement in the legislative branch allows our program to engage influential, democracy-minded Russians and others from more closed countries—products of the Putin Generation looking for positive change—that would otherwise choose not to travel on an executive branch exchange. It can be a risky and reputation-damaging proposition for a Russian to come to the United States as a participant in an executive branch program. In April of 2017 Open World hosted five in-demand Middle East specialists from Russia. They were blunt

in telling us that they felt secure on our program, in large part due to its legislative branch identity.

> "Open World appealed to the members of our delegation by being nonpartisan, politically neutral, and outside of executive branch politics. The programming fosters a free, open, deep and meaningful exchange of ideas between peers."—*Group Statement by Middle East Specialists from Russia, April 2017*

Furthermore, the Open World program is a proven asset to the Congress because it directly benefits their constituents. In 2016, Open World placed delegations of young professionals in all 50 States and brought the most members of parliament groups than ever before, 16.

Front Line against Fake News and Anti-American Propaganda: The Open World program is a proven effective method of directly combatting anti-American disinformation and propaganda being disseminated out of Moscow into its neighboring states as well as into other countries via sophisticated and well-funded communications methods such as the RT television channel. In the 3 years since Ukraine's Maidan Revolution and the subsequent illegal annexation of Crimea by the Russian Federation, the world has seen undisputed evidence that Russian troll farms are blanketing airwaves and the Internet with stories designed to disrupt the news cycle. Through our Embassy in Kyiv and other sources we find European-minded, anti-corruption activists and young Members of Parliament that see a great opportunity in participating in the Open World program.

Similar Russian tendencies are at play in Georgia and Moldova, both European Union-oriented governments and with regions mired in frozen conflicts with Russia. Open World directly engages members of parliament from both countries as well as their leading NGO and social services influencers.

Keeping Russia Close: U.S.-Russia relations continue to be strained. In fact, it is reminiscent of a time 18 years ago when our founder Librarian of Congress Emeritus Dr. James H. Billington grew increasingly concerned about our two country's relations during the NATO action in Yugoslavia. He envisioned a mini-Marshall Plan to keep goodwill strong at the grassroots level, when our diplomatic efforts were at a stalemate. Dr. Billington took his concerns not to the State Department, not to private international funders, but to Congress, to the Appropriations Committee, in fact, because it was his vision that a new model of exchange program would support the international oversight activities of U.S. legislators. They agreed with Dr. Billington, in effect creating a new support agency for the Congress. In 1999, the nascent Open World program brought over 2,000 Russians to the United States for professional programming hosted by their American counterparts, including Members of Congress, all across the country.

Today, the Open World Leadership Center continues to conduct a highly-regarded international exchange program in the United States legislative branch and plays an increasingly vital role in the political landscapes of many countries throughout Eurasia, and in particular, Russia and Ukraine. Open World has supported leaders who, early in their careers, have become influential within their communities and in the national arena. For example, Alexei Navalny, Russia's most well-known Kremlin critic was an unknown 29-year-old lawyer when he came on the Open World program in 2005. Navalny was hosted in Dallas, Texas on the Local Governance theme and went on to rise in the ranks of a strong and active movement against Vladimir Putin. Navalny is only one example demonstrating Open World's expertise in selecting the most promising individuals to come on the program usually right at the moment that they are about to ascend in their profession. We communicate with these alumni, track their results, and present them to Congress to show how effective our exchange model is.

One profound insight our delegates derive from their experience in the U.S. is that elected officials truly are accessible and accountable to the citizens of their jurisdictions. Another powerful element, again consistently praised by our delegates, is the impact of home stays—delegates living with American families while in the United States. One delegate succinctly described "seeing an America I didn't know existed."

Congressional leadership is instrumental in advancing democracy and strengthening civil society worldwide. With its support by Congress Open World is a strategic long-term investment in our security, a matter of principle, and a crucial source of our international influence and strength. Open World is committed to these efforts while recognizing the possibility of uncertainty and setbacks, understanding that progress requires our unwavering dedication to enduring principles and goals.

Open World's Powerful Alumni Network: Open World maintains a vast alumni network across Russia, Ukraine, and the other countries of the former Soviet Union.

Many members of the alumni 26,000-strong community are active in their communities, regions, and at the Federal level. They are a valuable resource to our diplomatic missions abroad. The communications multiplier effect is a major result of the Open World program. Our alumni dispel myths and untruths about the United States and help promote a positive message about the American reality.

For Open World's Russia program, the objective is to have participants return to Russia with a more positive view of America; to add to their professional skills through direct contact with U.S. citizens engaged in similar work; and to counter the Russian information war by providing an objective view of the American people and our society. These programs are intense 10-day thematic visits to the U.S. that expose young and emerging Russian leaders to democratic practices, civil rights, good governance, transparency in media, sound health and education policy and practices, the provision of social services, and economic development strategies.

Open World has had enormous success in Russia due to a continuous low-key presence there since 1999 providing our colleagues from Russia with broad exposure to American democratic and free-market institutions.

Open World's Ukraine program helps Ukraine mature in the aftermath of revolution and enhance its leaders' skills and capabilities to advance the country's agenda. These programs come at a time when part of Ukraine has been annexed and it faces continuing Russian aggression in the East and South, and through Russian-controlled media.

The Open World program also focuses on the institutional development of civil society organizations and the promotion of democratic and economic reform. The subthemes of the program are aimed primarily at fighting corruption, promoting transparency and accountability in governance, furthering decentralization of power, and improving the business climate to enhance trade capacity, particularly as it relates to the agricultural and energy sectors.

Open World has had growing success in Ukraine as it has worked steadfastly there since 2003 to be responsive to its developmental and societal needs. More than 3,200 outstanding alumni now serve in leadership positions throughout the country. In 2016, Open World's 46 Ukraine programs were hosted in 44 U.S. communities in 32 States, providing our colleagues from Ukraine with broad exposure to American democratic and free-market institutions. To exemplify some programmatic results:

Open World is supporting its alumni in the Parliament and throughout the country's legal institutions to assist actual judicial reform. Open World works with its U.S. judicial partner, the International Judicial Relations Committee of the Judicial Conference of the United States (whose Head is chosen by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court), on creating intense programs that outline a practical path toward judicial reform.

Two members of the new Cabinet of Ministers are Open World alumni. Open World alumni are in top leadership positions in the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Education and Science, and the Ministry of Youth and Sports. The Prime Minister is a strong supporter of the project and has been a very active supporter of the Birmingham (Alabama)—Vinnitsa partnership program that Open World implements.

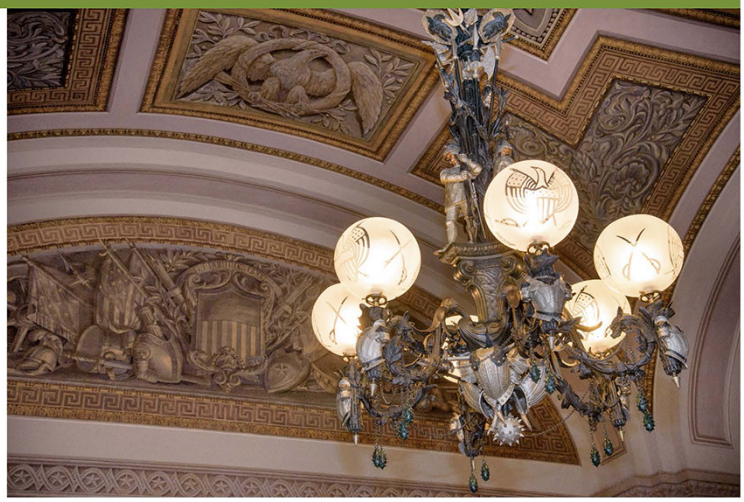
Open World alumni are among the leadership in Ukraine's Parliament and many others serve as key staff members. These dedicated alumni are eager to work with Open World to expand this element of programming.

Open World Strategic Goals: The Open World Leadership Center Strategic Plan for 2016–2020 builds on the excellent work done under the previous plan. We have adopted goals that will strengthen our work with Members of Congress and continue to cement our legislative identity. The plan sets the Center's direction for the next 5 years. This iteration is an update that includes activities through 2020. The strategic plan review process includes an effort to ensure that our goals are measurable and attainable, despite limited staff resources. Our performance measures, which are based on the Government Performance and Results Act, are challenging, though obtainable. The Center's three goals are to: ensure that the Center is a resource, an asset, and a sound investment for Congress; expand the reach of the Center to countries strategically important to the United States; operate as a model cost-effective, responsive agency.

Plans for 2017 and Beyond: In the ever-shifting landscape of U.S-Russian relations and our relations with other strategic countries in the region, the Open World Leadership Center is poised to address emerging issues such as: Anti-American sentiment; Countering Russia's influence; Global health concerns; and Democracy programs. Open World was designed to be and has remained agile and can create programming quickly to support Congress in their response to pressing international oversight issues.

[This statement was submitted by Ambassador John M. O'Keefe, Executive Director.]

Office of the Secretary of the Senate
Fiscal Year 2018 Budget Request



Cornelius & Baker Six-Arm Chandelier, First Floor, U.S. Capitol
Image courtesy of the U.S. Senate Commission on Art

BUDGET REQUEST

I would first like to thank the Committee for their ongoing support of the Office of the Secretary of the Senate's budget and mandated systems. For fiscal year 2018, I am requesting a budget of $36,307,000. The request includes $25,771,000 in salary costs, $1,900,000 for the operating budget of the Office of the Secretary, $3,500,000 for the Financial Management Information System (FMIS) modernization project and $5,136,000 for the Senate Information Services (SIS) program.

The salary budget represents an increase of $999,000 over the fiscal year 2017 budget which includes $629,000 for a cost of living adjustment and $370,000 for highly skilled and specially trained staff to support the Financial System Program Office (FSPO) within the Senate Disbursing Office. The cost of living adjustment is essential to retain experienced professional staff who have dedicated their careers to supporting the institution of the Senate. The operating budget of the Office of the Secretary remains flat at $1,900,000.

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OPERATING BUDGET

In order to have more flexibility and be able to work within stringent budget guidelines, I request that the $1,900,000 be designated in multi-year (2018/2022) monies and that the apportionment breakdown for the Secretary's accounts be eliminated.

Item	Amount available Fiscal Year 2017	Budget estimate Fiscal Year 2018	Difference
Departmental operating budget: Executive office	$500,000		
Administrative services	$1,251,600	$1,900,000	
Legislative services	$148,400		
Total operating budget	$1,900,000	$1,900,000	

PROJECT REQUESTS

FMIS MODERNIZATION PROJECT

The budget includes a request for $3,500,000 (a planned decrease of $500,000 from last year's program amount) in no-year funds to continue the modernization of FMIS. This funding is requested to complete the Budget and Accounting projects, continue the work on Data Sharing and Reporting, and facilitate the retirement of the Senate's mainframe computer and associated hardware and software. The flexibility of no-year funding remains important to the success of the modernization project due to its complexity, the unique Senate technical environment and business requirements, and the continuing need for open competition.

Item	Fiscal Year 2017	Fiscal Year 2018	Difference
FMIS Modernization Project	$4,000,000	$3,500,000	($500,000)

The FMIS modernization project is an update of the Senate's collection of financial applications. This project will: improve financial system supportability and flexibility; address business requirements not met by the existing system; and continue to bring the Senate closer to an integrated, auditable, paperless financial system. Throughout the modernization the approximately 140 Senate offices using FMIS will not be substantially impacted as they continue to use the current program.

The FSPO was established in May 2016 to oversee the modernization effort. FSPO is staffed with Disbursing IT personnel and augmented with four additional full-time staff. Over the remainder of the year, FSPO collaborated with the Office of the Senate Sergeant at Arms (SAA) to:

—Issue a Request for Proposal (RFP) for implementation services for the first phase of several phases of financial system modernization activities;
—Award Indefinite Delivery/Indefinite Quantity (IDIQ) contracts for financial systems modernization services to five qualified vendors;
—Initiate procurement of the software required to support the first phase of financial system modernization activities; and
—Facilitate multiple training activities for stakeholders who will be participating in the first phase of the financial system modernization.

The fiscal year 2018 request is the third year of a planned six-year phased project. In addition to the funding received to date and requested for fiscal year 2017, the table below outlines the additional funding required for software and support services for this project.

Fiscal Year Funding	2016 (funded)	2017 (pending)	2018	2019	2020	2021	Total
Implementation/Acquisition	2.5M	[1] 4M	3.5M	3M	2.5M	2.5M	18M

[1] Due to the Continuing Resolution (CR), only $2.5M of the $4 million requested for fiscal year 2017 was received. The additional $1.5M is critical to activities required to allow the retirement of the mainframe by the end of calendar year (CY) 2018. If it must be maintained beyond CY 2018, it and several of its components will require replacement at a cost to the Senate that significantly exceeds $1.5M.

The FMIS Business Case outlines the full scope of the financial system modernization project. The following table reflects the Business Case, including major phases and timelines for the proposed modernization effort as well as the status through fiscal year 2016 and activities planned through fiscal year 2018.

Date	Business Area	Modernization Approach and Rationale	Status through fiscal year 2016	Planned through fiscal year 2018
Fiscal Year 2016–Fiscal Year 2018 [2].	Budget	Replace multiple existing budget applications and manual processes with a commercial software package widely used by Federal agencies to: —Allow for more efficient and effective budget planning and budget execution tracking; —Enable ''what-if'' budget analyses at the Senate and individual office levels; and —Facilitate direct integration between the payroll and financial system.	—Acquired software to support development. —Worked with SAA to establish hardware and configure an initial sandbox environment to support development. —Provided training activities for staff participating in the modernization of budget. —Held planning discussions with payroll system stakeholders related to budget/payroll integration and PeopleSoft Enterprise Program Management (EPM) replacement.	—Implement Oracle Hyperion Planning and Public Sector Planning and Budgeting for: —Phase I—Disbursing; and —Phase II—Offices/Committees and SAA. —Provide direct integration with payroll, replacing existing PeopleSoft EPM module, which is used to perform payroll projections and will reach end of support in April 2018 (Phase II).
Fiscal Year 2016–Fiscal Year 2021.	Reporting	Streamline and modernize the reporting infrastructure to prepare for and minimize impacts of the financial system modernization, and: —Reduce the volume of reporting data; —Eliminate unused and redundant reports; —Consolidate numerous, disparate report processes; —Ensure the consistency and accuracy of historic data; and —Provide greater flexibility for users to customize the data they view and receive.	—Gathered reporting requirements from financial system stakeholders. —Developed initial data management and reporting strategy.	—Complete review of reporting requirements with stakeholders. —Establish historical reporting repository on distributed environment. —Augment reporting repository with budget, payroll and procurement data to support retirement of legacy systems currently on mainframe.
Fiscal Year 2017–Fiscal Year 2018.	Accounting	Replace the mainframe-based general ledger (GL) system with a commercial software package, which will: —Allow the Senate to retire the expensive and increasingly difficult to support mainframe hardware and software; —Implement a modern GL which is consistent with all current Federal financial standards and reporting requirements; and —Enhance the Senate's ability to maintain the core component of the financial system and the source of the statutory semi-annual ''Report of the Secretary of the Senate''.	—Developed Chart of Accounts for modern GL. —Reviewed Chart of Accounts with Oracle subject matter experts and system stakeholders. —Documented initial requirements for GL.	—Review GL requirements with stakeholders. —Implement PeopleSoft General Ledger, Accounts Payable and Accounts Receivable. —Retire legacy mainframe and related hardware.

[2] The Budget modernization project timeline was extended due to several factors including unanticipated activities required to maintain the legacy system and the delay in full funding for the budget work planned for fiscal year 2017.

Date	Business Area	Modernization Approach and Rationale	Status through fiscal year 2016	Planned through fiscal year 2018
Fiscal Year 2017 [3]–Fiscal Year 2019.	Data Sharing	Automate interfaces with Senate systems and outside agencies, such as the Department of the Treasury, to: —Reduce errors in Senate reporting; and —Eliminate the manual effort required to support daily and monthly external reporting.	—Acquired software to support sharing of master data between financial applications.	—Implement Oracle Hyperion Data Relationship Management (DRM) software in production environment. —Transition existing batch master data interfaces to DRM.
Fiscal Year 2018–Fiscal Year 2019.	Procurement to Payment.	Replace the highly customized procurement to payment applications with commercial software, where possible, subject to a thorough alternatives analysis. This will allow the Senate to: —Continue to meet unique Senate business needs while also addressing a number of business requirements not currently met by the existing applications; —Enhance the Senate's ability to administer and support financial system applications; —Enable more rapid deployment of user- requested changes; and —Facilitate tighter integration of all procurement to payment applications to enhance Senate financial statement production.		
Fiscal Year 2019–Fiscal Year 2021.	Asset Management.	Replace the existing Asset Management application with a commercial software module that will: —Enable direct integration with financial system; and —Eliminate redundant processes and data, increasing the efficiency and accuracy of the Senate's asset tracking.		
Fiscal Year 2019–Fiscal Year 2021.	Archival Tools	Implement data archival tools to: —Reduce the costs and potential application performance issues associated with maintaining large volumes of financial data; and —Ensure that all relevant data is archived together and may be restored together as needed to support Senate financial operations.		

[3] The Data Sharing project was initiated early to accelerate preparation for the Accounting/GL replacement and retirement of the mainframe as well as to minimize impacts to the existing payroll system.

SIS PROGRAM

The budget includes a request for $5,136,000 (an increase of $786,000) in multi-year funds (2018/2022) for the SIS program. This is the first time since 2011 that this Office has requested additional funds to support the continuation of current services offered as part of this program ($500,000) and to acquire three new subscription services ($286,000) at the request of the Senate community.

Item	Fiscal Year 2017	Fiscal Year 2018	Difference
SIS Current Services	$4,350,000	$4,850,000	$500,000
Additional Subscriptions	0	$286,000	$286,000
Total SIS	$4,350,000	$5,136,000	$786,000

SIS is a collection of information resources and services, managed by the Senate Library, that support the research needs of the Senate community, providing cost-effective access to legislative and legal databases, academic journals, policy research, historical and current newspapers, real-time news tracking, and media alert services. Funding enterprise-wide access to research and news services continues to provide the greatest return on investment for all Senate users because it allows shared access to a comprehensive set of high quality resources and tools in support of core business functions at rates unattainable by individual offices and committees.

Usage statistics and feedback from a May 2016 staff survey support the procurement of current services as the core set of required services for the next 5 years and identify three new content sources for inclusion in fiscal year 2018 offerings. Based on this data, during 2016, the SIS program managers negotiated new service contracts for fiscal year 2017, with options through fiscal year 2021, with existing program vendors to maintain or enhance services. The agreements provide for modest increases in the firm-fixed-price cost of services as vendors also continue to add value by updating product platforms, enhancing search interfaces, and expanding content and features available to the Senate.

IMPLEMENTING MANDATED SYSTEMS

Two systems critical to the Senate community and administered by this Office are mandated by law, FMIS and the Legislative Information System (LIS).

UPDATE ON STATUS OF FMIS

In addition to the six-year modernization project, Disbursing continued to oversee the current FMIS program, create a bridge from the current program to the modernized financial system, and prepare for the roll-out of the first modernized business areas. Several key accomplishments over the past year are described below.

Focusing on the current version of FMIS, the Disbursing Office continued to improve the FMIS user experience by publishing a quarterly *Financial Tips & Tricks* newsletter, developing and implementing a customer feedback survey, conducting more than 20 group meetings for various user communities, and providing direct communications related to system updates and issues. Disbursing also engaged in significant planning, testing and exercising of FMIS functions supporting the Senate's continuity of operations (COOP) planning.

The Office encouraged adoption of financial system functions that lay important groundwork for the modernized program. An example of this was increasing the number of offices configured for paperless voucher processing by 20 percent. The roll out of imaging and digital signature capabilities for paperless voucher processing will continue throughout 2017.

In order to prepare for a seamless introduction of the first phases of the modernization project, Disbursing completed requirements, a design, and the early stages of development for a Web FMIS release to facilitate modernization of voucher entry and review. In 2017, Disbursing will follow up on this preparation with the following releases:

—FMIS 14.1 (planned for Spring through Summer 2017)—Modernization of voucher creation and review functions used by Member Offices, Committees, Leadership, the Committee on Rules and Administration, SAA, the Office of the Secretary, and Disbursing to address user requested changes, enhance supportability and ensure compatibility with modern browsers; and

—FMIS 14.2 (planned for Fall 2017)—Modernization of additional document types, such as requisitions, purchase orders, invoices and receiving reports used

by SAA and the Office of the Secretary to address user requested changes, enhance supportability and ensure compatibility with modern browsers.

UPDATE ON STATUS OF THE LIS PROJECT

LIS is a mandated system (2 U.S.C. 6577) that provides desktop access to the content and status of legislative information and supporting documents. In addition, pursuant to 2 U.S.C. 181, a program was established to provide for the widest possible exchange of information among legislative branch agencies. The long-range goal of the LIS Project Office is to provide a "comprehensive Senate Legislative Information System" to capture, store, manage, and distribute Senate documents. The Office is currently focused on a Senate-wide implementation and transition to a standard system for the authoring and exchange of legislative documents such as bills, resolutions, amendments and reports, that will greatly enhance the availability and re-use of legislative documents within the Senate and with other legislative branch agencies.

Extensible Markup Language (XML) has been accepted as the primary data standard to be used for the exchange of legislative documents and information. Following the implementation of LIS, the Office shifted its focus to the data standards program and established the LIS Augmentation Project (LISAP). The overarching goal of LISAP is to provide a Senate- wide implementation and transition to XML for the authoring and exchange of legislative documents.

The Office provides support to Senate Legislative Counsel (SLC); the Committee on Appropriations; the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation; and the Senate Enrolling Clerk in their use of Legislative Editing in XML Application (LEXA) for drafting, engrossing, and enrolling. With the addition of the Commerce Committee drafters, all Senate measures (bills, resolutions, and amendments) are produced in XML. In addition, the Government Publishing Office (GPO) uses LEXA to complete measures for printing. Several new features and fixes were added in LEXA releases in 2016 to improve the drafting process. Office staff trained new drafters in the use of LEXA.

The Office has been working with staff from GPO and the Legislative Computer Systems (LCS) in the Office of the Clerk of the House of Representatives to create and print committee reports in XML. The initial LEXA committee report application was released to the Commerce Committee in 2013, and the Office provided several features which improved accuracy, efficiency and reduced processing time. New features included importing footnotes, exporting a committee report to MS Word for review, and enhanced table handling needed for Appropriations Committee reports. Committee report processing for the Appropriations Committee was added to LEXA in 2016.

Other enhancements to LEXA in the past year included improved performance when processing large documents and the ability to create conference report signature sheets. With the addition of signature sheets, all Senate documents printed by GPO for SLC are created in LEXA. The ability to test the first release of GPO's system to replace Microcomp was also added to LEXA in 2016.

Two other group projects with GPO and LCS include participants from the Law Revision Counsel and the Senate and House Legislative Counsels. The multi-phase project for the Law Revision Counsel will result in applications to convert, edit, and maintain the U.S. Code in an XML format. The Legislative Counsel offices collaborate on maintaining and using the compilations of existing law in an XML format. The Office and LCS also monitor and participate in GPO's project to replace Microcomp with a new composition system that can directly ingest XML data without having to convert it to another format before printing.

The Office will continue to support all Senate offices using LEXA and will work with the House, GPO, and the Library of Congress (LOC) on projects and issues that impact the legislative process and data standards for exchange. With the implementation of committee report processing for the Appropriations Committee, the Office will begin a project to increase process efficiency in LEXA for Appropriations drafters. The Office will also explore options to modernize the LEXA application.

LEGISLATIVE SERVICES

The Legislative operations of the Office of the Secretary provide support essential to Senators in carrying out their daily chamber activities as well as the constitutional responsibilities of the Senate. Legislative Services consists of the following departments: Bill Clerk, Captioning Services, Daily Digest, Enrolling Clerk, Executive Clerk, Journal Clerk, Legislative Clerk, Official Reporters of Debates and Parliamentarian.

The Office of the Secretary maintains a positive working relationship with GPO and they continue to respond in a timely manner to the Secretary's requests, through the Legislative staff, for the printing of bills and reports, including the expedited printing of priority matters for the Senate Chamber.

BILL CLERK

The Office of the Bill Clerk collects and records data on the legislative activity of the Senate, which becomes the historical record of official Senate business. The Office keeps this information in its handwritten files and ledgers and also enters it into the Senate's automated retrieval system so that it is available to all House and Senate offices via the Legislative Information System (LIS), Congress.gov, and Senate.gov. Current amendment information is entered and updated by the Office and is available to Senate offices on the Amendment Tracking System. The Bill Clerk records actions of the Senate with regard to bills, resolutions, reports, amendments, cosponsors, public law numbers, and recorded votes.

The Bill Clerk is responsible for preparing for print all measures introduced, received, submitted, and reported in the Senate. The Bill Clerk also assigns numbers to all Senate bills and resolutions. All the information received in this Office comes directly from the Senate floor in written form within moments of the action involved, so the Office is generally regarded as the most timely and most accurate source of legislative information.

The Bill Clerk coordinated with the Office of the Executive Clerk and the Office of Web Technology, and the Senate Library to provide input regarding Senate data on Congress.gov through meetings with LOC. The Office maintained communication with the Secretary's legislative offices, floor staff, and the Senate Library in support of facilitating input on Congress.gov, predominantly in the areas of legislation, committee reports, and the *Congressional Record.*

CAPTIONING SERVICES

The Office of Captioning Services provides real-time closed captioning of Senate floor proceedings for individuals who are deaf or hard-of-hearing and unofficial electronic transcripts of Senate floor proceedings to Senate offices on Webster.

Captioning Services strives to provide the highest quality closed captions and is comprised of some of the most seasoned and respected captioners in the industry. The overall average accuracy rate for the Office has continuously been above 99 percent, a level of achievement that has spanned more than two decades. Overall caption quality is monitored through daily translation data reports, monitoring of captions in real-time, and review of caption files on Webster. In an effort to decrease paper consumption and printing costs, accuracy reviews and reports were mostly completed in electronic form.

The real-time searchable Closed Caption Log database and VideoVault browser, available to Senate offices on Webster, continues to be an invaluable tool for the entire Senate community. Legislative floor staff, Cloakroom staff, Senate Recording Studio, and Member offices in particular continue to depend upon its availability, reliability, and contents to help in the performance of their everyday duties.

DAILY DIGEST

The Office of the Daily Digest is responsible for publication of a brief, concise and easy-to-read accounting of all official actions taken by the Senate in the *Congressional Record* section known as the Daily Digest. The Office compiles an accounting of all meetings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees and committees of conference.

The Office enters all Senate and joint committee scheduling data into the Senate's web-based scheduling application system. Committee scheduling information is also prepared for publication in the Daily Digest in three formats: Day-Ahead Schedule; Congressional Program for the Week Ahead; and the extended schedule which appears in the Extensions of Remarks section of the *Record.* The Office also enters all official actions taken by Senate committees on legislation, nominations, and treaties into LIS.

The Office publishes a listing of all legislation which has become public law, as well as a "Résumé of Congressional Activity" which includes all Congressional statistical information, including days and time in session; measures introduced, reported and passed; and roll call votes. The "Résumé" is published on the first legislative day of each month in the Daily Digest. The Office also assists the House Daily Digest Editor in the preparation at the end of each session of Congress a history of public bills enacted into law and a final résumé of congressional statistical activity.

All hearings and business meetings (including joint meetings and conferences) are scheduled through the Office and are published in the *Record,* on the Digest's page on Senate.gov, and in LIS. Meeting outcomes are also published by the Daily Digest in the *Record* each day and continuously updated on the website.

The Office publishes a "20-Year Comparison of Senate Legislative Activity" which can be found at: http://www.senate.gov/reference/resources/pdf/yearlycomparison.pdf

ENROLLING CLERK

The Office of the Enrolling Clerk prepares, proofreads, corrects, inputs amendments and prints all legislation passed by the Senate prior to its transmittal to the House of Representatives, the National Archives, the White House, the United States Court of Federal Claims, and the Secretary of State. Electronic files of all measures engrossed and enrolled in the Senate are transmitted daily by the Enrolling Clerk to GPO for overnight distribution and public web access.

The Office also keeps the original official copies of bills, resolutions, and appointments from the Senate floor through the end of each Congress.

EXECUTIVE CLERK

The Office of the Executive Clerk is responsible for the *Journal of the Executive Proceedings of the Senate,* a record of the Senate's actions during executive sessions.

The Executive Clerk, receives, assigns numbers to, and processes the nominations, treaties, executive communications, petitions or memorials, and presidential messages sent to the Senate. As part of this processing, the Executive Clerk enters each of these into LIS along with the Senate's actions on each.

The Office prepares the *Executive Calendar* daily when there are nominations, treaties, or resolutions related to treaties before the Senate. The Executive Clerk also prepares all nomination and treaty resolutions for transmittal to the President of the United States.

The Office worked in collaboration with the Office of the Bill Clerk, the Office of Web Technology, and the Senate Library to provide extensive knowledge and feedback to LOC related to the Senate materials available on Congress.gov, primarily in the areas of nominations, treaties, executive communications, presidential messages, and petitions or memorials.

JOURNAL CLERK

The Office of the Journal Clerk takes notes of the daily legislative proceedings of the Senate in a minute book and prepares a history of bills and resolutions for the printed *Journal of the Proceedings of the Senate, or Senate Journal,* as required by Article I, Section V of the Constitution. The content of the *Senate Journal* is governed by Senate Rule IV, and is approved by the Senate on a daily basis.

The Journal staff take 90-minute turns at the rostrum in the Senate Chamber whenever the Senate is in session, noting the following by hand for inclusion in the minute book: (i) all orders (entered into by the Senate through unanimous consent agreements), (ii) legislative messages received from the President of the United States, (iii) messages from the House of Representatives, (iv) legislative actions as taken by the Senate (including motions made by Senators, points of order raised, division votes taken and roll call votes taken), (v) amendments submitted and proposed for consideration, (vi) bills and joint resolutions introduced, and (vii) concurrent and Senate resolutions as submitted. These notes of the proceedings are then compiled in electronic form for eventual publication of the *Senate Journal* at the end of each calendar year. Compilation is efficiently accomplished through utilization of the LIS Senate Journal Authoring System. The *Senate Journal* is published each calendar year, and in 2016, the Office completed the production of the 1,000-page 2015 volume. It is anticipated that work on the 2016 volume will conclude by August 2017.

LEGISLATIVE CLERK

The Legislative Clerk sits at the rostrum in the Senate Chamber and reads aloud bills, amendments, the *Senate Journal,* presidential messages, and other such materials when so directed by the Presiding Officer of the Senate. The Legislative Clerk calls the roll of Members to establish the presence of a quorum and to record and tally all "yea" and "nay" votes. The Office prepares the Senate *Calendar of Business,* published each day that the Senate is in session, and prepares additional publications relating to Senate class membership and committee and subcommittee assignments. The Legislative Clerk maintains the official copy of all measures pending before the Senate and must incorporate into those measures any amendments that are

agreed to. The Office retains custody of official messages received from the House of Representatives and conference reports awaiting action by the Senate. The Office is responsible for verifying the accuracy of information entered into LIS by the various offices of the Secretary.

A small sample of the work completed during the 114th Congress, 2nd Session includes the processing of 2,243 submitted amendments, 329 reports of committees, 163 roll call votes, and the incorporation of 267 floor amendments into measures considered by the Senate.

The Office works closely with GPO, particularly the night production crew. For this past session of congress there were 166 separate issues of the *Calendar of Business* published. Publications are also available online, which has lowered the need for printed copy and makes the materials more accessible.

OFFICIAL REPORTERS OF DEBATES

The Office of the Official Reporters of Debates is responsible for the stenographic reporting, transcribing, and editing of the Senate Floor proceedings for publication in the *Congressional Record.* The Chief Reporter acts as the editor-in-chief and oversees the production of the *Record* to ensure its accuracy and consistency with Senate parliamentary rules and procedures.

When the Senate is in session, the electronic and paper transcripts of the floor proceedings of the Senate begin to go to GPO in the early evening, and the last delivery occurs approximately three hours after the Senate adjourns or recesses for the day. The *Record* is published in paperback form and online and is available to the public on the next business day.

The Morning Business Coordinator is responsible for coordinating the printing of legislative and executive material in a portion of the Morning Business section of the *Record* and sits in the Senate Chamber, recording daily floor activity of the Senate for the Official Reporters of Debates.

PARLIAMENTARIAN

The Office of the Parliamentarian continues to perform its essential institutional responsibilities to act as a neutral arbiter among all parties with an interest in the legislative process. These responsibilities include advising the Presiding Officer and Senators and their staff, as well as committee staff, House Members and their staff, administration officials, the media, and members of the general public, on all matters requiring an interpretation of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the precedents of the Senate, and unanimous consent agreements, as well as provisions of public law and the Constitution that affect the proceedings of the Senate.

The Parliamentarians work in close cooperation with Senate leadership and their floor staffs in coordinating all of the business on the Senate Floor. A parliamentarian is always present on the Senate Floor when the Senate is in session, ready to assist the Presiding Officer in their official duties, as well as to assist any other Senator on procedural matters. The Parliamentarians work closely with the President pro tempore and the Vice President of the United States and their staff when either performs duties as President of the Senate.

The Parliamentarians monitor all proceedings on the floor of the Senate, advise the Presiding Officer on the competing rights of the Senators on the floor, and advise all Senators as to what is appropriate in debate. The Parliamentarians keep time on the Senate Floor when time is limited or controlled under the provisions of time agreements, statutes, or standing orders. They keep track of amendments offered to the legislation pending on the Senate Floor, assess them for germaneness and other possible points of order, and review countless other amendments that are never offered in the same regard.

The Office of the Parliamentarian is responsible for the referral to the appropriate committees of all legislation introduced in the Senate and all legislation received from the House, as well as all communications received from the Executive Branch, memorials from State and local governments, and petitions from private citizens. In order to perform this responsibility, the Parliamentarians do extensive legal and legislative research. The Office works extensively with Senators and their staff to advise them of the jurisdictional consequences of drafts of legislation, and evaluate the jurisdictional effect of proposed modifications in drafting.

In 2016, in addition to day-to-day duties, the Parliamentarians continued work on the Electronic Senate Precedents (ESP) system; rewrote the *Guide to Senate Floor Procedure*; participated in or conducted several seminars on Senate procedure; reviewed certificates of election for Senators in the Class of 2017, ensuring that all necessary documents were received and in order for the opening of the new Congress; participated in orientation for new Senators and staff; and were heavily in-

volved in the review, handling and preparation of materials and advising the Vice President of the Constitutional and statutory requirements for conducting the counting of electoral ballots for President and Vice President of the United States.

FINANCIAL OPERATIONS

DISBURSING OFFICE

The mission of the Senate Disbursing Office is to provide efficient and effective financial, payroll and employee benefits information, and advice to the offices, Members, and employees of the Senate. The Disbursing Office manages the collection of information from all the accounting locations within the Senate to formulate and consolidate the agency level budget, disburse the payroll, pay the Senate's bills, and provide appropriate counseling and advice. The Disbursing Office collects information from Members and employees that is necessary to maintain and administer the retirement, health insurance, life insurance, and other central human resource programs, and provides responsive, individual attention to Members and employees on an unbiased and confidential basis.

In addition to the current FMIS program and the project to modernize the financial system, the Disbursing Office continued work on several activities that required a significant level of staff resources. Among them were (i) the initial distribution of new Employer-Provided Health Insurance Offer and Coverage forms (Forms 1094–C and 1095–C) required by the Affordable Care Act, (ii) roll-out of online access to payroll and benefits information for Members and employees (including paystubs and W–2 Forms), (iii) the assistance to outgoing offices with financial and employee benefit information as well as retirement counseling, and (iv) the validation, review and publication of the *Report of the Secretary of the Senate* for the 6 month periods ending in March and September 2016.

The Disbursing Office also continued working with Member offices and the Senate Stationery Room to establish office accounts for the online flag ordering system using the Department of the Treasury's Pay.gov system. Sixty-four offices were using Pay.gov at the end of 2016. The usage is expected to expand even further during 2017.

In addition, the Disbursing Office compiled the 2017 operating budget of the United States Senate for presentation to the Committee on Appropriations and prepared and distributed budget justification worksheets to the various offices to gather the information needed for the fiscal year 2018 budget request and submission to the Office of Management and Budget.

ADMINISTRATIVE AND EXECUTIVE OPERATIONS

SENATE CHIEF COUNSEL FOR EMPLOYMENT

The Office of the Senate Chief Counsel for Employment (SCCE) is a non-partisan office established at the direction of the Joint Leadership in 1993 after enactment of the Government Employee Rights Act, which allowed Senate employees to file claims of employment discrimination against Senate offices. With the enactment of the Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 (CAA), Senate offices became subject to the requirements, responsibilities and obligations of twelve employment laws, and subject to suit in Federal district court for alleged violations of such laws. In accordance with the CAA, Congress has applied subsequently enacted employment laws to Senate offices, such as the Genetic Information Non-Discrimination Act. Senate offices are also subject to certain non-CAA Federal laws that create compliance obligations regarding Senate employment.

The SCCE is charged with the legal defense of Senate offices in all employment law cases at both the administrative and court levels, from case inception through final appeal. In addition to litigating cases, the SCCE's attorneys provide legal advice to Senate offices about their obligations under employment laws. Each Senate office client is an individual client of the SCCE; accordingly, each such office maintains an attorney-client relationship with the SCCE. The SCCE also conducts a robust training program on a wide variety of employment law topics, including seminars to educate Senate managers, staff and interns about how to identify, prevent, and address unlawful harassment in the workplace.

The areas of responsibilities of the SCCE can be divided into the following categories: litigation (defending Senate offices in courts and at administrative hearings); mediations to resolve potential lawsuits; court-ordered alternative dispute resolutions; Occupational Safety and Health Act compliance; Americans with Disabilities Act compliance; layoffs and office closings in compliance with the law; management training regarding legal responsibilities and employee rights; employee and in-

tern training regarding prohibited harassment, including sexual harassment; union drives, negotiations, and unfair labor practice charges; and preventive legal advice.

CONSERVATION AND PRESERVATION

The Office of Conservation and Preservation supports the official record preservation and bookbinding needs of Senate leadership, committees, and offices.

In 2016, the work of the Office included bookbinding, framing, and the fabrication of materials for presentation, storage, and display. Bookbinding included re-casing of older books, congressional hearings, and *Congressional Record* volumes with new covers and end sheets; repairing bound volumes of Senate Library collection materials; and preparing new volumes for binding from materials printed in-house at the request of Senate offices. The Office designed and fabricated custom boxes, enclosures, and slipcases for preservation and storage of materials and prepared objects and signage for display in Senate exhibits.

CURATOR

The Office of Senate Curator, on behalf of the Senate Commission on Art (COA), develops and implements the museum and preservation programs for the Senate. The Curator collects, preserves, and interprets the Senate's fine and decorative arts, historic objects, and specific architectural features; and exercises supervisory responsibility for the historic chambers in the Senate wing of the Capitol under the jurisdiction of COA. Through exhibitions, publications, and other programs, the Curator educates the public about the Senate and its collections.

In keeping with scheduled procedures, all Senate Collection objects were inventoried in 2016, and any changes in location were recorded in the Curator's database. As directed by S. Res. 178 (108th Congress, 1st session), the Office submitted a list of the art and historic furnishings in the Senate to the Committee on Rules and Administration. The list, known as the *Historic Furnishings Inventory,* documents the history of acquisition, use, and manufacturer for each object. Items on the inventory are prohibited from removal or purchase. The inventory, which is submitted every 6 months, is compiled by the Office with assistance from the SAA and the Architect of the Capitol's (AOC) Superintendent of Senate Office Buildings.

The Office continued to advance the preservation and documentation of the historic Russell Senate Office Building furnishings by conducting a yearly inspection of the use and location of the 64 flat-top partner desks that remain in the Senate, and through educational initiatives aimed at informing Senate staff about the history of the furnishings. This year, the Office acquired an original 1909 flat-top desk donated by the descendants of a former Senator. Following precedent, the desk was added to the *Historic Furnishings Inventory* and transferred to the AOC so that it could be refinished and made available for use.

The Curator continued to conduct extensive primary source research into the original construction, configuration, and decoration of the Old Supreme Court Chamber in anticipation of the planned restoration of the space. The Curator also completed the restoration and electrification of an 1859 Cornelius & Baker six-arm chandelier. Over 145 similar chandeliers illuminated the Senate extension in the 1860s.

Twenty-eight objects were accessioned into the Senate Collection this year. The most significant addition was the donation of *History* and *Physics,* two oil sketches by Constantino Brumidi. These small preparatory studies were executed in the mid-1860s as proposed decorations for two lunette frescoes in room S–211 in the Capitol (the Lyndon Baines Johnson Room).

A new exhibit was installed by the Curator into showcases in the vestibule outside SD- G50, titled: *Who Was Everett McKinley Dirksen?* The exhibit highlights the career and accomplishments of the Dirksen Building's namesake and was created in conjunction with the Senate Library and Senate Historical Office. The Curator also installed an interpretative exhibit in the Trophy Corridor of the Senate wing of the Capitol to highlight the recently installed historic Cornelius & Baker chandelier.

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

The Joint Office of Education and Training, co-sponsored by the Secretary of the Senate and the SAA, provides training to ensure that all Senate staff have the resources and skills they need to perform their jobs. In 2016, nearly 3,000 staff attended in-person classes and nearly 1,200 staff attended online classes. The Office also facilitated three conferences for 137 State staff, and provided customized training, facilitation services, and coaching to more than 150 Member, committee, and support offices, in which more than 2,000 staff members participated.

This year the Office plans to expand leadership development offerings, provide training for the Academy Nomination Coordinators, and coordinate continued training for the Chiefs of Staff and Administrative Directors in the New Member offices.

The Health Promotion Office within Education and Training is mandated to provide health promotion activities and events for the Senate community. Each year the Office coordinates and hosts the 2-day Health and Wellness Fair. In 2016, over 2,000 staff participated in health promotion activities, which included screenings for glucose, cholesterol and blood pressure; exercise demonstrations, and seminars on topics including healthy eating and cancer prevention.

GIFT SHOP

The Gift Shop serves Senators and their spouses, staff, constituents, and the many visitors to the Capitol complex. The products available include a wide range of fine gift items, collectables, and souvenirs, many created exclusively for the Senate.

In addition to over-the-counter and walk-in sales, the Gift Shop offers an order form through Webster and the administrative office provides mail order service, special order and catalogue sales. While the Gift Shop has two physical locations, the Capitol kiosk remains temporarily closed due to the continued restoration of the Brumidi corridors.

Consistent with statute and past practice, a transfer of $40,000 to the Senate Employees Child Care Center was made based on the annual sales of the Congressional Holiday Ornament (see 2 U.S.C. 6576(c)(3)). The Official 2016 Congressional Holiday Ornament is a brass ornament with 24 karat gold finish that showcases the exterior of the Capitol. The ornament has two hinged doors which open to reveal the Rotunda. Sales of the 2016 holiday ornament were just over 25,000, of which more than 8,000 were personalized with engravings designed, proofed, and etched by the Gift Shop staff.

HISTORICAL OFFICE

In 2016 historians and archivists of the Senate Historical Office continued to serve the Senate and the broader community through a variety of activities, including archival assistance and guidance, tours and presentations, publications, reference assistance, and educational outreach programs. In addition, while the Secretary served as Chair of the Advisory Committee on the Records of Congress the Senate Archivist facilitated the semiannual meetings and related discussions of the Advisory Committee.

The Historical Office has provided more than 50 specially-requested talks and tours to Senate offices, answered more than 1,000 history-related questions via email from staff, public, and press, and drawn standing-room-only audiences to a series of "brownbag lunch" history talks. In September the Office observed Constitution Day with "A More Important Duty: Standing Committees and the Senate's Constitutional Powers and Responsibilities." This program filled the Kennedy Caucus Room with Senate staff, high school students, and visitors who explored four archival exhibits while learning more about the important role of committees in Senate history.

The Senate Archivist and deputy archivists assisted the offices of retiring Members in selecting an archival repository, in preserving the Senator's digital and paper content, and in identifying committee records needing preservation. For the first time, retiring Members were able to select the Senate Data Information Exchange Format for the download of their Constituent Services System (CSS) data, something which archival repositories had been hoping to receive and which the archivists accomplished through collaboration with SAA CSS staff.

Senate Rule XI (2) directs that "The Secretary of the Senate shall obtain at the close of each Congress all the noncurrent records of the Senate and of each Senate committee and transfer them to the National Archives for preservation." During 2016 the Senate transferred 720 cubic feet of paper records and 4.56 TB of electronic records to the Center for Legislative Archives (CLA). Archivists have prioritized creation of electronic records preservation guidance for committees and have incorporated the new guidance into a draft of the 4th edition of the *Records Management Handbook for United States Senate Committees.* To further assist Senate Committees, the archivists provide electronic records processing support to committees without their own archivists and have instituted the use of processing tools to further enhance the authenticity of electronic records being transferred to the CLA.

In fulfilling its mission to preserve and promote the history of the Senate, the Office pursues many long-term research and writing projects, conducts oral history

interviews, and is a primary content provider for Senate.gov. For example, in anticipation of the centennial commemoration of the nineteenth amendment in 2020, the historians have launched a special oral history project, conducting interviews with former and current female Senators and select female staff. These interviews document the evolving role of women in the Senate and their impact on the institution and its legislative business.

HUMAN RESOURCES

The Office of Human Resources was established in June 1995 by the Secretary of the Senate as a result of the CAA. The Office focuses on developing and implementing human resources policies, procedures, and programs for the Office of the Secretary. These responsibilities include recruiting and staffing; providing guidance and advice to managers and staff; training; performance management and evaluation; job analysis and classification; compensation planning, design, and administration; leave administration; records management; maintaining the employee handbook and manuals; employee relations and services; and organizational planning and development.

The Office administers the following programs for the Secretary's employees: the public transportation subsidy program, student loan program, Family Medical Leave Act program, parking allocations, and the Secretary's intern program.

INFORMATION SYSTEMS

The Office of Information Systems provides technical hardware and software support for the Office of the Secretary. Information Systems staff also interface closely with the application and network development groups within SAA, GPO, and outside vendors on technical issues and joint projects. The Office provides computer-related support for all local area network (LAN) servers within the Office of the Secretary, as well as direct application support for all software installed on workstations, initiates and guides new technologies, and implements next generation hardware and software solutions.

The primary mission of the Office is to continue to provide the highest level of customer satisfaction and computer support for the Office of the Secretary. Emphasis is placed on creating and transferring legislative records to outside departments and agencies, fulfilling Disbursing Office financial responsibilities to Member offices, and complying with office-mandated and statutory obligations.

INTERPARLIAMENTARY SERVICES

The Office of Interparliamentary Services (IPS) is responsible for administrative, financial, and protocol functions for special delegations authorized by the Majority and/or Minority Leaders, for all interparliamentary conferences in which the Senate participates by statute, and for interparliamentary conferences in which the Senate participates on an ad hoc basis. The Office also provides appropriate assistance as requested by other Senate delegations.

The statutory interparliamentary conferences are: the Mexico-United States Interparliamentary Group; the Canada-United States Interparliamentary Group; the British-American Interparliamentary Group; and the United States-China Interparliamentary Group.

On behalf of the Senate Majority and Minority Leaders, the staff arranges official receptions for heads of state, heads of government, heads of parliaments, and parliamentary delegations. Required records of expenditures on behalf of foreign dignitaries under authority of Public Law 100–71 are maintained by IPS.

IPS receives and prepares for printing the quarterly consolidated financial reports for foreign travel from all committees in the Senate. In addition to preparing the quarterly reports for the Majority Leader and the Minority Leader, IPS staff also assists staff members of Senators and committees in filling out the required reports.

LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION SYSTEM (LIS) PROJECT OFFICE

See the section on the LIS Project on page 8.

LIBRARY

The Senate Library, which celebrated its 145th year of service in 2016, provides legislative, legal, business, and general information services to Senators and staff. The Library's collection encompasses legislative documents that date from the Continental Congress in 1774; current and historic Executive and Judicial Branch materials; an extensive book collection on American politics, history, and biography; a

popular collection of audiobooks; and a wide array of online resources. The Library also authors content for three websites: LIS.gov, Senate.gov, and Webster.

The reference librarians work with Senate staff on a wide range of research topics, including legislative histories, legal citations, public records, and news article searches. They are experienced information professionals who draw on in-depth knowledge of Senate institutional procedures and practices when answering reference questions, and in 2016, they handled requests from all 100 Senate offices and every standing committee. There were over 10,700 walk-in, telephone, and email inquiries, many of which were handled on tight deadlines.

The Library is meeting the Senate's increasing demand for information through the creation of new web-based content, judicious selection and investment in online resources, expanded outreach and training opportunities, and use of technology to support alternative means for information delivery. Senate librarians also teach a variety of classes for Senate staff.

The Library catalog now provides Senate staff with desktop access to over 48,000 full- text electronic documents and online resources. A 3-year collaborative effort to update nearly 8,500 obsolete series statements in existing catalog records was completed in January, resulting in improved access to Senate prints, publications, treaty documents and Federal Government documents.

The inaugural edition of the Library's biweekly email newsletter was launched in December 2016. The newsletter highlights upcoming Library training classes, featured resources, and services. It is distributed to Senate staff who use one or more Library service and to administrative managers and committee clerks. The newsletter has been well received, with requests from staff to be added to the distribution list for future editions.

The Library presented exhibits and events relevant to the Senate community. These included two new hallway displays: A Tour of African American Landmarks & Historical Sites in Washington, D.C., to commemorate African American History Month, outside SR–B15, and *Who Was Everett McKinley Dirksen?,* outside SD–G50. The Dirksen exhibit is the result of the joint efforts of the Library, the Office of the Senate Curator, the Senate Historical Office, and the Office of Conservation and Preservation.

PAGE SCHOOL

The Senate Page School serves all appointed Senate pages with a sound program, both academically and experientially, during their stay in the Nation's capital. Senate pages are all juniors or rising juniors in high school and the School ensures the appropriate continuation of their studies integrated into the schedule of the page program in the Senate. The School focuses on providing a smooth transition from and to the pages' home schools.

In 2013, the Middle States Commission on Secondary Schools awarded accreditation renewal that continues until May 1, 2018. The Page School is among schools throughout the world that meet the internationally recognized standards of quality.

Faculty and staff provided extended educational experiences to pages, including 21 field trips, 5 guest speakers, and opportunities to study world languages. A panel of former pages also provided information and answered current pages' questions. Summer pages made four field trips to educational sites and heard from one guest speaker. The community service project embraced by pages and staff continues. Pages collected, assembled, and shipped items for gift packages to military personnel serving in various locations and included letters of support to the troops.

PRINTING AND DOCUMENT SERVICES

The Office of Printing and Document Services (OPDS) serves as liaison to GPO for the Senate's official printing, ensuring that all Senate printing is in compliance with Title 44 of the U.S. Code as it relates to Senate documents, hearings, committee prints and other official publications. The Office coordinates, schedules, delivers and prepares Senate legislation, hearing documents, committee prints and miscellaneous publications for printing, and provides printed copies of all legislation and public laws to the Senate and the public. In addition, the Office assigns publication numbers to all hearings, and committee prints, as well as legislative documents and other publications; orders all blank paper, envelopes and letterhead for the Senate; and prepares page counts of all Senate hearing transcripts in order to compensate commercial reporting companies for the preparation of the transcripts.

During fiscal year 2016, OPDS prepared 2,217 requisitions authorizing GPO to print and bind the Senate's work, exclusive of legislation and the *Congressional Record.* In addition to processing requisitions, the printing services section coordinates proof handling, job scheduling and tracking for stationery products, Senate

hearings, Senate publications and other miscellaneous printed products, as well as monitoring blank paper and stationery quotas for each Senate office and committee. Examples of major printing projects are: the *Report of the Secretary of the Senate*; the *Congressional Directory,* 115th Congress; the *Authority and Rules of Senate Committees*; the *Journal of the Proceedings of the Senate,* 114th Congress, 1st Session; and 58th Presidential Inaugural materials.

During 2016, OPDS processed and distributed over 6,600 distinct legislative items as well as fulfilled over 10,000 requests for legislative material at the walk-in counter, by mail, fax, and electronically. The Office produced 853 on-demand print jobs during 2016, and continues to monitor and adjust the number of documents received from GPO to meet demand while eliminating waste. Online ordering of legislative documents and the Legislative Hot List Link, where Members and staff can confirm arrival of printed copies of the most sought after legislative documents, continue to be popular. The site is updated each time new documents arrive from GPO to the Document Room.

PUBLIC RECORDS

The Office of Public Records receives, processes, and maintains records, reports, and other documents filed with the Secretary of the Senate that involve the Federal Election Campaign Act (FECA), as amended; the Lobbying Disclosure Act (LDA) of 1995, as amended; the Senate Code of Official Conduct; Rule 34, Public Financial Disclosure; Rule 35, Senate Gift Rule filings; Rule 40, Registration of Mass Mailing; Rule 41, Political Fund Designees; and Rule 41(6), Supervisor's Reports on Individuals Performing Senate Services; and Foreign Travel Reports. The Office works closely with the Federal Election Commission (FEC), the Senate Select Committee on Ethics, and the Clerk of the House concerning the filing requirements of the aforementioned acts and Senate Rules.

From October 2015 through September 2016, Public Records staff assisted over 10,000 individuals seeking information from or about reports filed with the Office, responding to walk-in inquiries and inquiries by telephone or e-mail. Further, the Office provided assistance to individuals attempting to comply with the provisions of the LDA.

The LDA requires semiannual contribution reports, and quarterly financial and lobbying activity reports. The Office conducted an LDA Guidance review in coordination with the Clerk of the House. As of September 30, 2016, there were 4,439 registrants representing 16,455 clients. The total number of individual lobbyists disclosed on fiscal year 2016 registrations and reports was 11,406. The total number of lobbying registrations and reports processed was 105,499. The Office referred 140 cases of potential noncompliance to the U.S. Attorney for the District of Columbia.

FECA requires Senate candidates to file quarterly and pre- and post-election reports with the Secretary of the Senate. Filings for fiscal year 2016 totaled 4,816 documents containing 468,246 pages, which were scanned, processed, and transmitted to the FEC, as required by law.

The filing date for Public Financial Disclosure Reports was May 15, 2016. A total of 4,501 paper and e-filed reports and amendments were filed. The reports were made available to the public and press as soon as they were filed and processed, and in most cases, the same day. Public Records staff provided copies to the Ethics Committee and the appropriate State officials.

Senators are required to file mass mailing reports on a quarterly basis. The number of pages submitted during fiscal year 2016 was 350. In addition, the Office received 752 Gift Rule/Travel reports during fiscal year 2016.

STATIONERY ROOM

Since it was formally established in 1854, the Senate Stationery Room has evolved into a diversified retail outlet serving the needs of the Senate community by providing a wide range of office and administrative supplies, communication and computer accessories, and special order items for official government business.

The Stationery Room fulfills its mission by utilizing open market, competitive bid, or General Services Administration schedules for supply procurement; maintaining sufficient in-stock quantities of select merchandise to best meet the immediate needs of the Senate community; developing and maintaining productive business relationships with a wide variety of vendors; maintaining expense accounts for all authorized customers and preparing monthly activity statements; and managing all accounts receivable and accounts payable reimbursement.

Utilizing the Pay.gov service offered by the Department of the Treasury, the Stationery Room has been accepting online flag requests and payments from constituents through Member websites. Currently, 64 Member offices are offering this pay-

ment option and 22 offices are in the beginning stages of the program. The benefits include a reduced wait time for constituents, elimination of payment inaccuracies, and greatly reduced workload for office representatives. The Stationery Room will continue to expand this service to interested Member offices.

The Stationery Room, with the assistance of the Office of Web Technology, upgraded its online web ordering portal through Webster. The upgrades included an enhanced search engine, modernized layout, improved images of items and easier checkout. Customers can place a stock order online and the order will be delivered within 24 hours. Use of the website helps reduce order time, increases customer convenience and order accuracy, and reduces the use of paper through reduced reliance on hard copy orders. Since the upgrade in September 2016, 387 orders have been placed using the website compared to 190 total orders for the entire fiscal year 2016 prior to the upgrade.

The Stationery Room contracts annually with various vendors to provide U.S. flags. The flags are purchased by constituents through individual Member offices, and are flown over the U.S. Capitol Building for commemoration of special occasions. While many flags are flown for specific reasons, the Stationery Room sells pre-flown flags for offices to meet those generic requests. The Stationery Room coordinates its flag procurement program with the Capitol Visitor Center, offering both entities the benefits of greater volume discounts where available.

WEB TECHNOLOGY

The Office of Web Technology is responsible for Senate.gov, the Secretary's intranet on Webster, portions of the central site of Webster, and legbranch.senate.gov (an extranet site available to all Capitol Hill entities), along with the web-based systems, servers, and technologies supporting these websites that fall under the purview of the Secretary of the Senate.

Senate.gov content is maintained by over 30 contributors from seven departments of the Office of the Secretary and three departments of SAA. All content is controlled through the Secretary's web content management system, managed by the Office of Web Technology.

A refreshed version of www.senate.gov launched in March 2017 completing a 2 year project to offer a new and better opportunity for audiences to interact with the wealth of information provided on the central site. The updated site is clean, modern, and has a responsive design which optimizes the site's presentation on any accessing device, such as mobile phones or tablets. Greater ability to contact Senators, view live and archived Senate Floor proceeding streams, and conduct searches on the central site are a few of the enhancements.

Senate.gov has been transitioned to secure sockets (https). This is the new best practice for websites and the transition of the central site serves as an example for other Senate sites. Although no personal information is collected on the central site (when https is most strongly recommended) the change will help ensure the central site remains at or near the top of search results.

The Office also worked extensively with the Office of the Bill Clerk, the Office of the Executive Clerk, the Senate Library and LOC in the refinement of Congress.gov and the dissemination of legislative bulk data, allowing for increased accuracy and transparency of Congressional information. Part of these processes involved expanding legbranch.senate.gov to host newly generated data feeds for the Congressional community and will likely be further expanded in the incoming year.

In 2016 an average of 27,425 visits occurred per day to the central site of Senate.gov. The Office responded to nearly 700 emails from the general public regarding Senate.gov sites.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AND CONTINUITY PLANNING

Throughout 2016, the Office of the Secretary continued to exercise, maintain and develop a broad range of emergency preparedness and continuity programs under the direction of Senate leadership and in coordination with SAA, House Officers, U.S. Capitol Police, and partners in the Executive and Judicial Branches. The primary objectives in this area are to ensure the continuity of the legislative process, and that the Senate can meet its constitutional obligations under any circumstances.

The Secretary's Legislative staff and supporting offices maintain and regularly exercise plans to ensure that the Senate can convene and conduct legislative business under any conditions in various locations. All other departments maintain plans to carry out their essential functions, either locally or elsewhere, depending upon conditions.

All departments within the Office of the Secretary maintain individual COOP plans to ensure that each department can carry out its essential functions during an emergency. Last year, several departments within the Office developed a new program to create and maintain departmental COOP plans. The project was undertaken and completed entirely with in-house resources, and replaces a previously-used commercial product, resulting in an annual savings of more than $20,000.

Across the Office of the Secretary, monthly drills and annual exercises are conducted in order to ensure that plans are current, and that staff understand their continuity responsibilities. All departmental plans are supported by emergency supply kits stored in multiple locations within and outside the District of Columbia. Finally, the Secretary's Legislative departments, as well as several others, continue to employ robust cross-training programs initiated in prior years, to ensure that staff with critical skills will be available in an emergency.

NONDEPARTMENTAL WITNESSES

PREPARED STATEMENT OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF LAW LIBRARIES

Dear Chairman Lankford, Ranking Member Murphy, and Members of the subcommittee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony in support of two key Federal institutions funded by the Legislative Branch Appropriations Subcommittee: the Government Publishing Office (GPO) and the Library of Congress (LC). The American Association of Law Libraries (AALL) works closely with these agencies to support their missions, and our members rely on their leadership in providing access to and preservation of legal information and other materials.

AALL is the only national association dedicated to the legal information profession and its professionals. Founded in 1906 on the belief that people—lawyers, judges, students, and the public—need timely access to relevant legal information to make sound legal arguments and wise legal decisions, its nearly 4,500 members are problem solvers of the highest order. AALL fosters the profession by offering its members knowledge, leadership, and community that make the whole legal system stronger.

Under the leadership of GPO Director Davita E. Vance-Cooks and Librarian of Congress Carla D. Hayden, GPO and LC are transforming themselves into modern agencies for the digital world. We urge members of the subcommittee to support the agencies' fiscal year 2018 budget requests in full.

GOVERNMENT PUBLISHING OFFICE

The Government Publishing Office produces, authenticates, disseminates, and preserves government information in multiple formats from all three branches of government. We urge the subcommittee to fully fund each account within GPO's request.

The Congressional Publishing request will ensure support for the publication of Congressional materials, which law libraries use to provide access to trustworthy legal information in print and online. Some users, such as law professors, students, self-represented litigants, and members of the public prefer the print for its ease of use and the ability to skim the index and flip to specific pages. Thus, the nearly 200 law libraries in the Federal Depository Library Program (FDLP) must continue to have the option of receiving these materials in print.

The Public Information Programs account supports the centuries' old FDLP. FDLP libraries, including the 18 in Oklahoma and 18 in Connecticut, provide geographically convenient access to government information from all three branches of government in print and online. We are pleased with GPO's efforts to introduce greater flexibility into the depository program to allow more libraries to participate or continue their participation. As we note above, many law libraries continue to rely on GPO for distribution of specific tangible materials, especially core legal titles in print.

We appreciate GPO's recent digitization initiatives and partnerships with the Library of Congress and National Archives and Records Administration. The digitization projects provide access to the historical *Federal Register* and *Congressional Record,* opening up a treasure for researchers and the general public. We urge the Committee to support additional digitization projects and the preservation of documents in the FDLP collection. We also commend GPO for actively participating in the House's Bulk Data Task Force and the Committee on House Administration's annual Legislative Data Transparency Conference.

AALL supports GPO's request for funding for the continued development of govinfo.gov, currently in beta. Every day, AALL members rely on access to the official, authentic government information in the new govinfo and in the Federal Digital System (FDsys), which govinfo will eventually replace. We appreciate the inclusive process GPO took in involving law librarians in the development of govinfo, and our members are pleased with the new site. We also support GPO's efforts to seek certification of FDsys/govinfo as a Trusted Digital Repository. Once certification is complete, GPO will be first Federal agency with this designation.

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

The Library of Congress has enjoyed increased public attention this year under the leadership of new Librarian of Congress Carla D. Hayden. Thanks to Dr. Hayden's leadership, LC is investing in its technology, digitizing historically significant collections, and updating the Library's technology infrastructure. We strongly urge the Committee to fully fund the Library's fiscal year 2018 request.

Our association was pleased to welcome new Law Librarian of Congress Jane Sánchez earlier this year. Members of AALL know Ms. Sánchez from her many years in the library community, including as director of Library Services and Content Management at GPO. We believe Ms. Sánchez is well-suited for the Law Librarian position and look forward to working with her in her new role.

The Law Library of Congress is responsible for providing access to trustworthy legal materials in print and electronic formats. Its collections are exceptional, and must be preserved. In fact, 70 percent of the Law Library's collection is unique. We thank the subcommittee for its support of funding for Law Library compact shelving as part of the fiscal year 2017 omnibus bill. The replacement of the outdated and hazardous shelving units has been a priority for both the Law Library and AALL. If the Library's compact shelving is not working properly, then materials cannot be accessed and there is a greater chance of loss.

We commend LC for its development of Congress.gov. The Law Library has recently expanded the number of legal resources available via Congress.gov, and has seen a tremendous jump in traffic. AALL believes this demonstrates the public's interest in accessing official, authoritative sources of government information. We also support the Law Library's digitization efforts and its work to provide greater access to legal materials online.

Finally, we support the excellent work of the Congressional Research Service (CRS), and urge Congress to provide public access to its unclassified, non-confidential reports. The public has a strong interest in CRS reports. Many organizations and websites already make thousands of reports freely available online, and commercial third-party services offer the reports for a fee. The popularity of these sites demonstrates the public's desire for access to these essential reports. Members of the public need access to up-to-date, reliable information in order to understand the important policy issues before Congress and to participate in the democratic process.

CONCLUSION

AALL thanks the subcommittee for the opportunity to provide written testimony. If we can provide additional information or assistance, please contact AALL's Director of Government Relations Emily Feltren at efeltren@aall.org.

[This statement was submitted by Ronald E. Wheeler Jr., President.]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF CIVIC IMPULSE, LLC

Dear Members of the subcommittee:

Each year ten million individuals use our free website www.GovTrack.us to research and track legislation in the U.S. Congress. Our users include journalists, legislative affairs professionals at small businesses and Federal and State agencies, legislative staff on the Hill, advocates, teachers, students, and of course member of the general public. This testimony is submitted on their behalf.

Public access to legislative information ensures that accurate information about legislation, votes, and other activities of the Congress reaches the American public?. It's not about playing gotcha. Our users are professionals who have a job to do, including your staff, and our users are also regular Americans who also feel they have a job to do, that is, to vote in elections, to stay informed, and for some, to learn what it takes to become a future senator. At Civic Impulse LLC, our job is to take the official record, from you, and bring that to the widest audience we can, and to teach them how the Congress really works so their relationship with you is a meaningful one.

I would like to begin by commending the subcommittee for its support of important programs in the last several years:

—The Bulk Data Taskforce's legislative bulk data program, which went live in 2016 and was a joint effort of the Senate, the Government Publishing Office, the Library of Congress, and the Clerk of the House has allowed us to disseminate the most accurate information yet about the status of pending legislation.

—Improvements to the Senate's website, which has made it easier for the public to learn about the Senate, including the use of HTTPS to protect Senate web pages and data from eavesdropping and alteration.

—The launch of Congress.gov by the Library of Congress, and its agile-lead improvements since its launch, which is an example for the whole legislative branch in how best to develop modern technology.

—Digitization and publication of core historical documents by the Government Publishing Office and Library of Congress, including the Congressional Record, Statutes at Large, and Constitution Annotated (though more work is needed here).

I also commend the staff at the offices and legislative branch agencies named above who have done remarkable work in producing accurate, durable, and timely information within the constraints that an institution like the Senate requires.

To continue the subcommittee's commitment to public access to legislative information, I respectfully recommend the following:

—Create a public advisory committee on legislative transparency for stakeholders to engage systematically on this issue, including but not limited to access to data.

—Continue participating in the bicameral Bulk Data Taskforce effort and fund the participation of the offices and agencies that are members of the taskforce.

—Support congressional publication of other important information in a structured data format, including Senate floor amendments, committee votes, and disbursements.

—Cultivate the legislative branch's in-house technology talent as other parts of the government are doing and use technology to better connect senators with their constituents.

—Increase Senate staff levels above Congress's current historic lows so the Senate has sufficient capacity for policy analysis, oversight, and constituent services and direct the Congressional Research Service to report on on how staffing levels impact the legislative branch's capacity to function, and make that report public.

—Systematically release non-confidential Congressional Research Service reports to the general public. Years of experience has demonstrated that public access to these reports enhances the public debate without creating a commensurate burden.

I would be glad to discuss these topics further and tell you more about how the work of the Senate on public access to legislative information translates into a stronger democracy.

[This statement was submitted by Joshua Tauberer, Ph.D., President, Civic Impulse, LLC.]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF THE CONGRESSIONAL RESEARCH EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION

I write as President of the union representing nearly 500 non-supervisory employees of the Congressional Research Service (CRS). The Congressional Research Employees Association (CREA) is one of three unions covering Library of Congress employees. My other role at the Library is as Specialist in Drug Safety and Effectiveness in the Domestic Social Policy Division, one of six research divisions, which, along with five administrative offices, make up the Congressional Research Service.

In my 15-month tenure in office, I have worked to build trust between CREA and three key groups: bargaining unit employees, CRS management, and Library management. My work at building those relationships with congressional committees and their staff is in its early stage. I look forward to sharing CREA's concerns with you—and learning yours. My hope is that we can explore approaches to resolving or avoiding obstacles that impede the functioning of CRS and the Library. Thank you for accepting this testimony for the record.

In the context of this subcommittee's focus on fiscal year 2018 appropriations, I offer comments on four topics:

—IT centralization across the Library,

—involvement of staff in CRS and Library policy consideration,

—workplace concerns, and

—CRS mission.

IT CENTRALIZATION

A time-sensitive topic is how the Library is going about its move into information technology (IT) centralization. We do not necessarily oppose centralization; we have concerns about how it might be structured.

What prompts our concern is that while CREA has proposed including non-management perspectives and interests in the Library's initiative to centralize IT resources, authority, and operations, the Library's Chief Information Officer (CIO) and Human Resources Services management, which includes labor relations, have denied our requests.

The Library has contracted with a consultant to recommend several centralized organizational structures. Because that report may strongly influence management's decisions, we believe employee union access to the consultant is essential. The Library has denied the unions access to the consultant and to internal planning discussions.

My hope in bringing our concerns to the subcommittee is that you encourage the Librarian and the Chief Information Officer to

—engage with non-supervisory employees as they assess how best to centralize responsibility for the effective and efficient functioning of IT services for the Library and CRS in particular,
—inform employees (via their unions) which tasks the Library assigned to the contractor,
—modify the consultant's task assignment to include interviews with the three unions, and
—make sure that the contractor interviews managers (and non-managers) in a way that makes interviewees feel safe in expressing opinions that may not coincide with those of their supervisors.

The CRS Office of Information Management and Technology provides seemingly instant help for CRS employees whose work directly supports Congress—a level of timeliness not available to other Library units. Although leadership says mission-critical activities would be maintained, would a centralized management lead to an averaging of resources and attention across Library units? Even if Library management didn't take resources away from CRS, would it allow CRS's technological abilities growth to stagnate while Library management concentrated on improving IT in other units?

I've been told that CRS uses different platforms and programs than the rest of the Library. Although there may be instances where consolidating work or functions makes sense, there are many others where CRS has developed approaches that serve the mission-specific needs that Congress expects and requires of us, including confidentiality, security, and timeliness. Who would be responsible for protecting that?

INVOLVEMENT OF STAFF IN CRS AND LIBRARY POLICY CONSIDERATION

In addition to IT centralization, the Library and CRS are missing other opportunities to take advantage of the expertise and policy experience that Members and committee of Congress rely on every day: CRS's own staff.

If a congressional committee wanted to figure out the best way to reorganize a cabinet department, it could call the CRS experts in the Government & Finance Division; if planning a program to coordinate emergency services and financing after a natural disaster, a Member could call the CRS experts in my Domestic Social Policy Division. Yet the Library and CRS have been slow to engage their own experts and the union that represents them in policy considerations.

A CRS example: When CRS revised its policy on confidentiality in 2015, it issued the final version without first discussing the objectives and procedures with the staff who respond to congressional requests and protect the confidentiality of requesters and the matters that we discuss with them. The objectives of the policy—which I believe we share—may be endangered by procedures and restrictions that do not serve the interests of Congress. After over a year of discussing this disconnect between CRS management and the practical knowledge of the employees who do the work the policies address, CRS management and CREA are now moving into a better approach. While bargaining unit employees are still not included in policy working groups, CRS now posts its final drafts and invites comments from all staff. I hope this approach yields final policy documents that put forth not only appropriate goals but also feasible procedures that support them.

A Library example: This week nine "tiger teams" began work as part of the Library's strategic planning activities. The Library did not invite the unions to partici-

pate. Neither did it inform us of this activity. Did the Librarian's Office choose to not include the unions? Or did it not even think to consider our participation?

We like that the Librarian routinely gives kudos to the Library's staff. Now, we are ready to share our ideas and energy with her and her leadership team.

WORKPLACE CONCERNS

Although CRS came out well on many measures in the most recent Federal Employees Viewpoint Survey (FEVS), the survey also revealed several areas where CRS staff saw problems and wanted change. The CRS Director has taken some steps—such as setting up advisory groups—to address widespread concerns about communication and diversity and inclusion.

However, she has not engaged in areas that, based on reports from staff and our own observations, CREA knows there are pockets extreme discontent within CRS. We were hoping that FEVS data could corroborate those problems so that management and CREA could work to improve employee morale and repair the group's functioning. We see how those problems impede CRS's ability to provide Congress with objective, authoritative, and timely analysis. Despite our concerns, CRS management has refused to share division-specific results with staff or CREA.

Would the subcommittee please consider urging CRS to provide division-specific FEVS results to CREA? That tool, while maintaining individual employees' confidentiality, could help us—and CRS—focus on these problems.

CRS MISSION

In the Library's fiscal year 2018 budget request, CRS proposes hiring GS–11 "junior analysts" in time-limited positions, saying, "The junior analyst model is more flexible and cost-effective in providing expertise in areas that may only be in demand for a short period of time. The junior analysts would gain experience that may result in opportunities for permanent positions should they arise from attrition and succession planning."

The CRS tradition—backed by many Congresses—has been to provide comprehensive information and analytic support to Members and committees. Our GS–15 specialist positions assert one is "a national expert." We may "apply new hypotheses and concepts to intractable problems; define or clarify issues; synthesize complex variables from several disciplines; assess political and institutional constraints; organize and present policy options and analyze their consequences; and anticipate the direction of policy questions." That's quite a skill set.

Two recent trends—the retirement of our specialists and budget constraints—are, bit by bit, limiting the scope and depth of CRS expertise. The CRS proposal for the new position of temporary junior analyst is an attempt to find new ways to respond to congressional needs. That may help in the short term. But it moves the full coverage that Congress has enjoyed and expected farther out of reach each year.

The CRS proposal would change the promotion potential of new hires and change the mix of staff. We do not want to defensively oppose a management proposal because it might adversely affect some of our bargaining unit members. We note, however, that Congress has appreciated and depended upon the wide-ranging and in-depth expertise CRS staff make available. How do we find ways to maintain that cadre of expertise and experience in just about every area Congress considers?

We in CREA want to analyze the problem, consider the solution management has put forth, and, using the skills for which you value us, look for options that best serve the needs of all involved. Just as a congressional committee LA talks to industry, academic, and consumer groups in forming a position, so too does CREA suggest CRS do as it considers staffing patterns. Our mid-level managers may contribute useful observations, but may not know the extent or rhythm of how we assist Congress. Ask us.

If you are working with the Library and CRS leadership to tackle questions of scope, quality, and cost in the future of CRS, I ask that you include CREA in those discussions. If you are not currently working on those topics, I urge you to begin and to include CREA.

Thank you for this opportunity to offer my thoughts. I, along with my CREA officer team, look forward to constructive conversations with CRS, the Library, and you.

[This statement was submitted by Susan Thaul, Ph.D., President.]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF THE DATA COALITION

Chairman Lankford, Ranking Member Murphy, and Members of the Committee: Thank you for this opportunity to provide written testimony on behalf of the Data Coalition regarding the modernization of the legislative branch of our government.

The Data Coalition was founded in 2012. We represent 36 technology and consulting companies, employing over 200,000 Americans. Fourteen of our members are startups founded within the last decade and ten are public companies. All of our member companies support the publication of government information as machine-readable and open data.

By expressing laws and bills as open data, instead of unstructured documents, we believe Congress can ensure accountability to constituents, make lawmaking easier, and lay a foundation for automated compliance in the future. The Coalition advocates for the passage of open legislative data mandates including the *Searchable Legislation Act,* the *Statutes at Large Modernization Act,* and the *Establishing Digital Interactive Transparency (EDIT) Act.* These mandates, collectively, will move Congress to create and use a comprehensive open data structure for bills, amendments, and enacted laws.

Legislative branch drafting and publishing systems have reached a crucial point. Current systems are based on 30-year-old formats and software. Incremental investments in the existing technologies have become unsustainable and will lead to failures throughout the system. Meanwhile, legislative data standards and software technologies have advanced to define a clear path forward to modernize these systems. The excellent work of the members of the United States Legislative Branch XML Working Group and others have laid the groundwork for this modernization.

Concerted investment is now needed to build on this groundwork and establish an integrated, modern system for legislative information. This system should be based on accepted data standards and technologies and guided by a few fundamental principles, which we outline below. We also provide recommendations for how to best achieve these principles based on existing statutory authorities and institutional expertise.

OPEN STANDARDS FOR DOCUMENTS

A common document format should be used throughout the legislative branch. Use of a common format improves system efficiency and supports the goals of 2 U.S.C. 181 for legislative branch information exchange. United States Legislative Markup (USLM) is a legislative drafting standard based on the international LegalDocML standard and provides a common structure for documents produced throughout the legislative branch. USLM's structure assures a consistent preparation of legislative materials to facilitate an efficient flow of information throughout a complex and nuanced legislative process.

The Coalition has been supportive of the Statutes at Large Modernization Act (H.R. 1729) which would require the Government Publishing Office (GPO) to put all historical Federal laws online in a machine-readable format. Currently, historical statutes are only available as unsearchable PDFs. And while the Law Revision Counsel has published the U.S. Code online in USLM, the U.S. Code does not represent a complete history of U.S. laws since it only organizes ("codifies") public laws ("Pub.L.") by subject matter. Conversely, the U.S. Statutes at Large lists laws sequentially, as passed by each Congress, and includes repealed laws, private laws ("Pvt. L."), and cyclical appropriations bills. By transforming the U.S. Statutes into a machine-readable and open format, the GPO would enable powerful legislative and legal research through efficient access to fully searchable historical laws.

OPEN STANDARDS FOR URL CITATIONS

In the modern age, data standards also extend to the location of documents on the web. In particular, any legislative branch legal citation should have a common and standardized path on the web to retrieve the cited document. These paths should be extensible to reach particular provisions, as is defined in the references within USLM. Doing so will create a unified digital reference standard for the legislative branch, to support existing legal citation standards. This will aid transparency and efficiency within the legislative branch, and create tremendous public interest benefits. Developing and implementing such standards across agencies of the legislative branch will take an initial investment and a clear mandate.

FUNDED INTERAGENCY COORDINATION

The legislative process, from bill drafting to publication and codification, requires the exchange of information and coordination between many agencies of the legisla-

tive branch. Currently, much of this coordination has been informal and has not been specifically funded. Thus, data may be lost, delayed, or distorted as it passes from one part of the legislative branch to another. Great efforts have been made at each agency to minimize such losses, but they are inevitable without a specific, funded effort to manage the interchange of data and, ideally, create a common software platform for tasks that the agencies share.

MODERNIZE LEGISLATIVE PRACTICES

The United States legislative process is steeped in tradition, much of which was based on the most modern technology of the time—paper. With a shift to digital information, and a public that will never see a printed copy of a statute, certain practices need to change in order to provide true transparency today. Practices such as drafting changes in redlined text, have been adopted by jurisdictions such as California. Changes to the form of submission of amendment (e.g. the Rules Committee already supports electronic submission), could also create broad benefits. We recommend the creating and funding of a Committee to propose technical changes to current practice that could best support modern informational infrastructure.

TRANSPARENCY FOR THE PUBLIC

The various legislative agencies have made great strides toward making information about the legislative process available in a timely manner and in standard digital formats. This work should continue and be supported where necessary. Additionally, the Coalition supports the publication of Congressional Research Service (CRS) reports online, in a machine-readable and open data format, for full public access. As we have publicly stated, CRS reports play a critical role in our legislative process by informing lawmakers and staff about the important issues of the day. Making CRS reports available as open data will modernize a long-outdated and disjointed aspect of the legislative process and the public's access to expertise supported by their tax dollars. Longstanding congressional policy allows Members and committees to use their websites to disseminate CRS products to the public, although CRS itself may not engage in direct public dissemination. The result is that people with Capitol Hill connections can easily obtain CRS reports from any congressional staffer and well-resourced groups can pay for access from subscription services. We believe the public should have timely and consistent access to CRS produced public reports.

In support of these principles we present five recommendations for the Committee to consider.

STANDARDIZE DOCUMENTS IN USLM

The Law Revision Counsel has published the U.S. Code online in USLM, and there are projects underway at the Government Publishing Office (GPO) to convert bills, public laws, statutes, and other documents into USLM. As we describe above, the Coalition encourages the Committee to fund work at the GPO's Congressional Publishing office to begin making the historical United States Statutes at Large available to the public at no cost on a website in a searchable, non-proprietary format. In doing so the Committee should ensure that this online edition of the Statutes at Large is prepared in consultation with those entities developing USLM formatting conventions used for enrolled bills and other legislative materials. In addition, the Committee should allocate funds to the GPO to extend USLM to legislative amendments and bill Compilations.

FUND INTERAGENCY COORDINATION

As previously mentioned, interagency coordination and data exchange is an essential function. Modernization efforts will be inefficient and ineffective if agencies do not have the funds and mandate to coordinate. This coordination should include all agencies that produce and publish documents in the legislative branch, including the House and Senate, GPO, the Library of Congress and the Law Revision Counsel. The work of this coordination group should extend the achievements of the Legislative Branch XML Working Group, with dedicated resources to the integration tasks ahead. This coordination should focus on data and document exchange between the agencies, development of common software resources, and development and implementation of url citation standards for legislative branch documents.

MODERNIZE DOCUMENT DRAFTING AND PUBLISHING

The current drafting and amending platforms in the Senate and House do not support the more modern, schema based USLM standard. The platforms themselves

depend on outdated technologies and, in some cases, hardware. An investment needs to be made into modernizing these drafting platforms, providing a common software platform for agencies to draft, exchange, update and publish documents. This effort would augment the goal of increased interagency coordination within the legislative branch described above.

ESTABLISH A HOUSE-SENATE PRACTICE MODERNIZATION TASKFORCE

As previously mentioned, some legislative drafting practices need to be updated in order to support greater transparency and efficiency. A task force including Members of interested Committees should be established to work with the Legislative Counsel in both the Senate and House to review drafting practices and make recommendations for areas of improvement. Many of these will not require formal changes in laws or rules, but education about preferred practices for maximizing the benefits of modern information systems is needed for members and staff.

SUPPORT OPENING CONGRESSIONAL RESEARCH SERVICE REPORTS

We encourage the Committee to consider proposals to comprehensively publish and catalogue non-confidential CRS reports on a centralized online portal in machine-readable and searchable formats. We do not make a specific recommendation on which entity should handle this publishing; we leave that decision to the discretion of the Committee. We would note that the Secretary of the Senate, Clerk of the House, the GPO, the Library of Congress, and libraries in the Federal Depository Library Program (FDLP) are all practical entities for hosting. We urge the Committee to give great weight to the significant public benefit that would result from comprehensive, timely access to this valuable public resource.

We appreciate this opportunity to testify in support of these important initiatives and welcome any follow-up with the Committee.

[This statement was submitted by Christian Hoehner, Director of Policy.]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF DEMAND PROGRESS

Dear Chairman Lankford, Ranking Member Murphy, and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of a coalition of organizations and individuals, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of expanded public access to Congressional Research Service (CRS) reports. Longstanding congressional policy allows Members and committees to use their websites to disseminate CRS products to the public, although CRS itself may not engage in direct public dissemination. This results in a disheartening inequity: insiders with Capitol Hill connections can easily obtain CRS reports from any of the 20,000 congressional staffers and well-resourced groups can pay for access from subscription services. However, members of the public can access only a small subset of CRS reports that are intermittently posted on an assortment of not-for-profit websites. Now is the time for a systematic solution that provides timely, comprehensive free public access to and preservation of non-confidential reports while protecting confidential communications between CRS and Members and committees of Congress.

CRS reports—not to be confused with confidential CRS memoranda and other products—play a critical role in our legislative process by informing lawmakers and staff about the important issues of the day. The public should have the same access to information. In 2015 CRS completed over 1,200 new reports (including other general-distribution products) and updated over 2,400 existing products. (CRS also produced more than 3,100 confidential memoranda.)

Our interest in free public access to non-confidential CRS reports illustrates the esteem in which the agency is held. CRS reports are regularly requested by members of the public and are frequently cited by the courts and the media. For example, over the last decade CRS reports were cited in 190 Federal court opinions, including 64 at the appellate level. Over the same time period, CRS reports were cited 67 times in *The Washington Post* and 45 times *The New York Times.* CRS reports often are published in the record of legislative proceedings.

Taxpayers provide more than $100 million annually in support of CRS, and yet members of the public often must look to private companies for consistent access to CRS reports. Some citizens are priced out of these services, resulting in inequitable access to information about government activity that is produced at public expense.

In fact, while CRS generates a list of all the reports it has issued over the previous year, it silently redacts that information from the public-facing version of its

annual report. This makes it difficult for the public to even know the scope of CRS products they could obtain from Congress. A Google search returned over 27,000 reports including 4,260 hosted on .gov domains, but there is no way to know if those documents are up to date, what might be missing, or when they might disappear from view. We think it critical that in circumstances when the public has access to a CRS report, it knows whether it is the most recent, up-to-date version.

Comprehensive free public access to non-confidential CRS reports would place the reports in line with publications by other legislative support agencies in the United States and around the globe. The Government Accountability Office, the Congressional Budget Office, the Law Library of Congress, and the 85 percent of G–20 countries whose parliaments have subject matter experts routinely publish reports to the public. In addition, former CRS analysts with more than 500 years of experience have signed a letter calling for public access to the reports.

We hasten to emphasize that we are not calling for public access to CRS products that should be kept confidential or are distributed only to a small network on Capitol Hill. Memoranda produced at the request of a Member or committee and provided to an office in direct response to a request should remain confidential unless the office itself chooses to release the report. By comparison, we believe no such protection should attach to reports typically published on CRS's internal website or otherwise generally disseminated.

We value the work of CRS and in no way wish to impede its ability to serve Congress. CRS reports already undergo multiple levels of administrative review to ensure they are accurate, non-partisan, balanced, and well-written. Authors of every CRS product are aware of the likelihood that reports will become publicly available.

We do not make a specific recommendation on who should comprehensively publish non-confidential CRS reports online, although the approach outlined in the bipartisan, bicameral legislation known as the *Equal Access to Congressional Research Service Reports Act of 2016,* H.R. 4702 (114th) and S. 2639 (114th) is a reasonable. The Clerk of the House, the Secretary of the Senate, the Government Publishing Office (GPO), the Library of Congress and libraries in the Federal Depository Library Program (FDLP) are all reasonable places for the public to gain access to these documents. Space constraints prevent us from responding in this document to concerns occasionally raised about public access to CRS reports, so for more information please go to the document identified in the footnote for our evaluation of those concerns.[1]

We ask only that all non-confidential reports be published as they are released, updated, or withdrawn; that they be published in their full, final form; that they are freely downloadable individually and in bulk; and that they be accompanied by an index or metadata that includes the report ID, the date issued/updated, the report name, a hyperlink to the report, and the division that produced the report.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testimony. If you have further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at daniel@demandprogress.org.

Sincerely yours,

American Association of Law Libraries
American Civil Liberties Union
American Commitment
American Society of News Editors
Americans For Tax Reform
Association of Alternative Newsmedia
Association of Research Libraries
Campaign Finance Institute
Cause of Action
Center for Data Innovation
Center for Democracy & Technology
Center for Responsive Politics
Center for Science and Democracy at the Union of Concerned Scientists
Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington (CREW)
Common Cause
Council for Citizens Against Government Waste
Data Coalition
Defending Rights & Dissent
Demand Progress
Free Government Information
FreedomWorks
Government Accountability Project
GovTrack.us
LegiStorm
Minnesota Coalition On Government Information
National Coalition for History
National Security Archive
National Security Counselors
National Taxpayers Union
New America's Open Technology Institute

[1] See Nov. 12, 2015 letter in support of expanded public access to CRS reports, available at https://s3.amazonaws.com/demandprogress/letters/2015-11-12__Letter__Calling__for__Public__Access__to__CRS__Reports.pdf and https://goo.gl/sLa37S.

OpenTheGovernment
Project On Government Oversight
Public Citizen
Quorum
R Street Institute
Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press
Southern Oregon University Hannon Library
Sunlight Foundation
Taxpayers Protection Alliance
TechFreedom
The FOIA Project (foiaproject.org)
Transactional Records Access Clearinghouse (TRAC) at Syracuse University

Amy Frazier (Middlebury College Libraries)*
Andrew Lopez (Shain Library, Connecticut College)*
Bert Chapman (Purdue University Libraries)*
Brenda Ellis (Middlebury College)*
Bryan Carson (Middlebury College Library)*
Carrie Macfarlane (Middlebury College Libraries)*
Claire King (Kansas Supreme Court Law Library)*
Dr. William D. Jackson (CRS, retired.)*
Francis Buckley (Former Superintendent of Documents, US Government Printing Office)*
Helen Burke (Minnesota Coalition on Government Information)*
Jada A. Aitchison (UALR Law Library, Little Rock, AR)*
Lois Aleta Fundis (Reference and Government Documents Librarian, Mary H. Weir Public Library, Weirton, WV)*
Melissa Serfass (University of Arkansas at Little Rock William H. Bowen School of Law Library)*
Michael Malbin (University at Albany, SUNY)*
Patrick Wallace (Middlebury College)*
Richard Rowberg (National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine)*
Robert Sippel (Evans Library, Florida Institute of Technology)*
Ryan Clement (Middlebury College)*
Shari Laster (University of California, Santa Barbara)*
Stephen Hayes (University of Notre Dame—Hesburgh Libraries' Mahaffey Business library)*
Susan Bucks (Monmouth University)*
Terry Simpkins (Middlebury College)*
Wendy Swanberg (University of Wisconsin-Madison; Bickford Organics)*

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Ellen Simmons
Maryellen Trautman
Barbara Wagner

[This statement was submitted by Daniel Schuman, Policy Director.]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF THE LIBRARY COPYRIGHT ALLIANCE

The Library Copyright Alliance ("LCA") consists of three major library associations: the American Library Association, Association of College and Research Libraries and Association of Research Libraries. Collectively, we represent over 100,000 libraries in the United States employing more than 350,000 librarians and other personnel. An estimated 200 million Americans use these libraries over two billion times each year.

The Library of Congress ("Library") is one of the world's leading research and cultural institutions.[1] We appreciate the opportunity to provide these comments as the

[1] The Library of Congress is a member of the Association of Research Libraries but it played no role in the preparation of this submission.

subcommittee prepares to make fiscal year 2018 appropriations for it. We look forward to working with the subcommittee and full Appropriations Committee throughout the appropriations process to ensure that the Library has the resources it needs both to remain preeminent and realize its enormous full potential under the new Librarian of Congress ("Librarian"), Dr. Carla Hayden.

We have three principal observations and requests:

(1) It is imperative that Congress appropriate sufficient funding to allow the Library to continue to perform its broad and fundamental mission of preserving and providing the public with access to critical information resources. At her confirmation hearing last year before the Senate Rules Committee, the Librarian articulated a vision under which the Library's "resources are readily available to more people online," noting that "[t]his would provide all Americans with "a sense of ownership and pride in this national treasure." She also spoke eloquently to the power of the Library's deep and significant collections to shape educations, lives and the careers of millions of people.

Specifically, the Librarian described how—through the modern Library of Congress she hopes to helm—"a child on a reservation in New Mexico will have the same access as a high school student in St. Louis, Missouri." She further envisioned that "a fifth grader in Bowling Green, Kentucky, would be able to view Abraham Lincoln's papers from his home computer, and a shy tenth grader from Meridian, Mississippi, with dreams of performing, would be able to view the Library's Leonard Bernstein collection."

(2) It is particularly important that the Library be fully enabled financially to truly modernize. The Librarian's objective of "continuing movement to open the treasure chest that is the Library of Congress" requires upgrading the Library's information technology (IT) infrastructure, which in turn requires more funding. We are well aware of the IT management issues at the Library identified in the past by the Government Accountability Office, but the Librarian was overwhelmingly confirmed by the Senate expressly because (as Members observed) she has the IT management and broader library system modernization experience necessary to put the Library's IT house in order. Indeed, she has already taken several important steps to achieve this result.

Further, and more specifically in this regard, the Librarian also testified regarding the importance of the Library balancing its various roles, including "ensur[ing] a fully functional Copyright Office that supports the community it serves." The Copyright Office has had its own IT challenges, as well documented by the GAO and a recent report by the Library Inspector General. Addressing these challenges will require better IT management within both the Copyright Office and the Library. But achieving the IT objectives identified in the Copyright Office's 2016–2020 strategic plan also requires additional funding.

We support that plan's IT objectives, including creating a modern system for recording commercial and noncommercial copyright documents and making copyright records easily searchable and widely available to all who need them. In particular, we agree that:

—Registrations, licenses, and other copyright records should become more accessible and useable to the global public;
—The public should be able to view records that form the life-cycle of a copyright interest in a more cohesive and comprehensive fashion; and
—Pre-1978 copyright records should be available online.

We note that while there is disagreement among stakeholders concerning the location of the Copyright Office, there is unanimous support that modernization of the Copyright Office cannot and should not wait. Thus, it is prudent to focus resources on that area of strong consensus, while discussion regarding Copyright Office autonomy continues more broadly among all stakeholders.

(3) Consistent with the goal of increasing public access to information, we strongly support expanded access to non-confidential Congressional Research Service (CRS) reports. These reports play an important role in the legislative process by providing lawmakers and staff with non-partisan analyses of the significant issues of public concern. Statute should ensure that members of the public also have access to this trove of information they paid to create.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit these request and observations. We hope that the subcommittee and full Appropriations Committee will consider our organizations as resources and deeply interested stakeholders in all of the matters addressed above as the appropriations process for fiscal year 2018 evolves. We look forward to facilitating your work.

Please contact LCA's counsel, Jonathan Band, jband@policybandwidth.com, with any questions you may have.

PREPARED STATEMENT OF THE R STREET INSTITUTE

Chairman Lankford, Ranking Member Murphy, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for considering my written testimony. My name is Kevin Kosar, and I am vice president of policy for the R Street Institute, a free-market think tank here in Washington. I also co-direct the Legislative Branch Capacity Working Group, a bipartisan gathering of experts and congressional staff who meet monthly to discuss ways to reform Congress to meet the demands of the 21st century. Our aim, as we say, is to "Make Congress Great Again."

I am here today to encourage the committee to make public access to Congressional Research Service reports more equitable. In short, lobbyists and other interested persons within the Beltway can get copies of CRS reports much more easily than the average member of the public. This is not fair, as it is the public whose tax dollars support CRS to the tune of $106 million per year.

Here I will make two brief points:

First, no harm can come of making the reports more equitably available to the public. I spent more than a decade working at CRS, as an analyst and a research manager. I love the agency, as do the 24 other former and retired CRS experts who signed an April 28, 2017 letter to you in support of broader public access to CRS reports. We have 570 years of collective experience working at CRS and we are convinced that this is the right thing to do. Forty groups on the left, right, and center also support more equitable public access—which makes CRS leadership's lonely lobbying against reform look peculiar (attached).

Second, Congress always has made CRS reports available to the public, albeit in an ad hoc way. For example, CRS' 1979 annual report (pp. 63–85) lists dozens of CRS documents publicly released as committee prints, as part of hearings, and in the *Congressional Record* (attached). When the Internet arrived 20 years ago, Congress released even more CRS reports to the public. Committees, individual members, and various offices within the two chambers posted CRS reports online and emailed them to lobbyists, interest groups, and constituents. This explains why there are thousands of copies of CRS reports floating about the Internet, scattered here and there.

To conclude, what I and other former CRS employees advocate is that Congress continue to publish the reports, but to do so more consistently. I think it makes most sense to have Government Publishing Office do it, since its job is to make authenticated government documents accessible to the public. GPO previously has published CRS reports, like the *Evolving Congress,* which came out late in 2014. As previously mentioned, GPO also has published CRS reports as parts of committee prints and hearings.

Thank you.

ATTACHMENTS

POSTED ON MAY 10, 2017 BY KEVIN KOSAR

CRS SHOULD STOP FIGHTING ACCESS TO ITS OWN REPORTS

http://www.rstreet.org/2017/05/10/crs-should-stop-fighting-access-to-its-own-reports/

The Congressional Research Service plays an essential role in policymaking and oversight. It makes Congress smarter about issues and teaches new legislators how to legislate. I would not have spent 11 years working at CRS if I did not think very highly of the institution.

But there is one topic on which the widely esteemed and nonpartisan agency has been embarrassingly biased: the proposals to make its reports more equitably available to the public. As a practical matter, CRS reports are available—27,000 copies can be found on government and private-sector websites. EveryCRSReport.com, for example, has more than 8,000 reports. But official congressional policy does not provide for consistent public release of the reports, which explain the workings of Congress, agencies and myriad public policies.

Legislation has been introduced in this Congress and last Congress to fix this situation, and a number of times previously. Reps. Mike Quigley, D-Illinois, and Leonard Lance, R-New Jersey, would have the Government Publishing Office post the reports on GovInfo.gov. This solution would give citizens a central repository to go

to read authenticated copies of the reports, and would relieve CRS and congressional staff of the hassles of responding to reporters, lobbyists and constituents who ask for copies.

Inevitably, CRS proclaims aloud that it takes no position on the issue and will do whatever Congress directs. But how are we to square that claim with this 2015 memorandum that CRS' leadership shopped to legislators? The memorandum is modestly titled: "Considerations arising from the dissemination of CRS products." The content, however, is nothing but scare-mongering speculation about bad things that might happen if more Americans had access to CRS reports. Proponents of expanded access to CRS reports quickly demolished the claims made in CRS' "considerations" memo.

As someone who once reviewed CRS reports before they were published, I can tell you that, had a CRS analyst written this memo, it never would have seen the light of day. And said analyst would have been rebuked by his or her supervisor. The memorandum not only misconstrues what is being proposed?—?nobody is advocating that CRS itself distribute the reports—but it also makes no mention of the many possible benefits of a change in policy (like increased public understanding of how Congress and government operates).

That means the memo violates CRS' own very clear policies that its work for Congress must be accurate and unbiased, and must consider the possible benefits and costs of any proposed policy. (This internal CRS rule not only is intellectually honest, it also, ahem, protects the agency from having its work give the appearance of bias.)

One hopes that someone in Congress would call CRS leadership to the carpet on this tartuffery, and demand the agency to disavow the memorandum. In a time when Federal budget cuts are being seriously discussed, the agency does itself, its employees and Congress no favors by being the lone voice advocating against common-sense reform.

APPENDIX C

CRS STUDIES IN THE PUBLIC DOMAIN

A subject listing of those Congressional Research Service studies and reports which have been printed in some form by the U.S. Government Printing Office and have been made generally available between May 1, 1979, and November 30, 1979.

ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

Ahearn, Raymond. Multilateral trade negotiations. [June 25, 1979] 13 p.
Appears in a joint committee print, Joint Economic Committee. The U.S. role in a changing world political economy: major issues for the 96th Congress. 1979. p. 48–60.

- - - - - Summary of trade function reorganization approaches. [Sept. 18, 1979] 2 p.
Appears in the Congressional record [daily ed.] v. 125, Sept. 25, 1979: H8496–H8497.

Bresnick, Ronda. East-West commercial relations. [June 25, 1979] 11 p.
Appears in a joint committee print, Joint Economic Committee. The U.S. role in a changing world political economy: major issues for the 96th Congress. 1979. p. 285–295.

Bresnick, Ronda. Hardt, John. Policy considerations on export licensing. [Mar. 6, 1979] 20 p.
Appears in U.S. Congress. House. Committee on Foreign Affairs. Extension and revision of the Export Administration Act of 1969. Hearings and markup, 96th Cong., 1st sess. 1979. p. 914–933.

Cole, Leon. Thompson, Stephen. Transportation in rural America. [Jan. 15, 1979] 10 p.
Appears in a committee print, Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry, Subcommittee on Rural Development. Rural development: an overview. 1979. p. 139–148.

Congressional Research Service. Schussheim, Morton. Osbourn, Sandra. Rural development: an overview. Aug. 20, 1979. 257 p.
Issued as a committee print, Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry, Subcommittee on Rural Development, 96th Cong., 1st sess.

Fletcher, W. Wendell. Cook, Kenneth. Foreign investment in U.S. farmland—an overview. [Sept. 1978] 19 p.
Appears in a committee print, Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry. Foreign investment in United States agricultural land. 1979. p. 3–21.

Hardt, John. Bresnick, Ronda. Soviet economy in a time of change: a compendium of papers. Oct. 10, 1979. 2 v. (1,532 p.)
Issued as a joint committee print, Joint Economic Committee, 96th Cong., 1st sess.
Dr. Hardt helped to plan the scope of the research. He also coordinated and edited the contributions and wrote summaries for each volume. He was assisted by Ronda Bresnick.

Lowenthal, Mark. Whitson, William. Reifman, Alfred. The U.S. role in a changing

world: political economy: major issues for the 95th Congress. June 25, 1979. 668 p.
Issued as a joint committee print, Joint Economic Committee, 96th Cong., 1st sess.
CRS assisted the committee in preparing this compendium of papers.

McMurtry, Virginia. Federal payment proposals since 1940. [Aug. 8, 1979] 95 p.
Appears in a committee print, House Committee on the District of Columbia. The Federal payment to the District of Columbia, 1790–1980: a reference compendium of documents, studies, reports, and proposals. 1979. p. 23–95.

Miles, Barbara. Vanhorenbeck, Susan. Prices of new and existing houses: current data; issue brief number IB78231. Apr. 9, 1979. 11 p.
Appears in U.S. Congress. House. Committee on Education and Labor. Subcommittee on Postsecondary Education. Reauthorization of the Higher Education Act and related measures. Hearings, 96th Cong., 1st sess. Part 4. p. 122–132.

Mitchell, Douglas. The political impact of U.S. economic relations with Japan. [June 25, 1979] 17 p.
Appears in a joint committee print, Joint Economic Committee. The U.S. role in a changing world political economy: major issues for the 96th Congress. 1979. p. 386–402.

Osbourn, Sandra. Local implementation of national rural development programs and policies. [Jan. 25, 1979] 35 p.
Appears in a committee print, Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry, Subcommittee on Rural Development. Rural development: an overview. 1979. p. 209–243.

Patrick, Hugh. Drysdale, John. Reifman, Alfred. An Asian-Pacific regional economic organization: an exploratory concept paper. July 1979. 74 p.
Issued as a committee print, Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, 96th Cong., 1st sess.

Phillips, Charlotte. West European perceptions of Atlantic economic relations. [Feb. 1, 1979] 8 p.
Appears in a joint committee print, Joint Economic Committee. The U.S. role in a changing world political economy: major issues for the 96th Congress. 1979. p. 243–250.

Schick, Allen. Proposed constitutional limitations on the Federal budget. Mar. 5, 1979. 10 p.
Appears in House report no. 96–96. Toward a balanced budget: report pursuant to Public Law 96–5. 1979. p. 14–23.

Schnittker Associates. Multilateral trade negotiations: results for U.S. agriculture. Apr. 1979. 234 p.
Issued as committee print CP 96–11, MTN studies 1: results for U.S. agriculture, Senate Committee on Finance, 96th Cong. 1st sess.

Schussheim, Morton. Smith, Anne. Estimating the need for assisted housing production. [July 13, 1979] 13 p.
Appears in U.S. Congress. House. Committee on Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs. Condominium housing issues. Hearing, 96th Cong., 1st sess. 1979. p. 838–850.

Terpstra, A. Ellen. An analysis of possible cartel and barter arrangements to influence the price and availability of wheat on the international market. [May 30, 1979] 44 p.
Appears in U.S. Congress. Senate. Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry. Subcommittee on Foreign Agricultural Policy. International grain agreements oversight. Hearing, 96th Cong., 1st sess. 1979. p. 58–101.

----- Coffee prices. Aug. 27, 1979. 2 p.
Appears in the Congressional record [daily ed.] v. 125, Sept. 25, 1979: S13437–S13438.

Thompson, Stephen. Fischer, John. Brown, Teresa. ICC implementation of the 4R Act (synopsis of views presented at hearings before the Subcommittee on Surface Transportation of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, February 7, 1979). May 1979. 187 p.

Issued as a committee print, Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, 96th Cong., 1st sess.

Wells, F. Jean. White, Roger. Jackson, William. Leisenring, Carol. Briefing materials for mid-year 1979 monetary policy oversight. [July 18, 1979] 35 p.

Appears in U.S. Congress. Senate. Committee on Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs. Federal Reserve second monetary policy report for 1979. Hearings, 96th Cong., 1st sess. 1979. p. 4–38.

Wells, F. Jean. White, Roger. Leisenring, Carol. Briefing materials for mid-year 1979 monetary policy oversight. July 16, 1979. 20 p.

Appears in U.S. Congress. House. Committee on Banking, Finance and Urban Affairs. Conduct of monetary policy (pursuant to the Full Employment and Balanced Growth Act of 1978, P.L. 95–523). Hearing, 96th Cong., 2d sess. 1979. p. 109–128.

Wells, F. Jean. White, Robert. Jackson, William. Briefing materials for monetary policy oversight. Feb. 16, 1979. 6 p.

Appears in U.S. Congress. House. Committee on Banking, Finance and Urban Affairs. Conduct of monetary policy (pursuant to the Full Employment and Balanced Growth Act of 1978, P.L. 95–523). Hearings, 96th Cong., 1st sess. 1979. p. 166–171.

White, Roger. Jackson, William. U.S. financial institutions: selected data series illustrating financial conditions. [May 21, 1979] 41 p.

Appears in U.S. Congress. Senate. Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs. Third meeting on the condition of the financial system. Hearing, 96th Cong., 1st sess. 1979. p. 49–89.

EDUCATION AND PUBLIC WELFARE

Bailey, Susan. Klebe, Edward. Proskauer, Martha. Materials relating to existing Federal programs providing or financing health care for mothers and children. June 1979. 18 p.

Issued as committee print 96–16, Senate Committee on Finance, 96th Cong., 1st sess.

Carr, Geraldine. Carcinogen testing programs. [Feb. 6, 1979] 9 p.

Appears in a committee print, Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry. Food safety: where are we? 1979. p. 59–67.

- - - - - Chemical contaminants in food: animal drugs. [Feb. 6, 1979] 11 p.

Appears in a committee print, Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry. Food safety: where are we? 1979. p. 81–91.

Cavalier, Kay. Kline, Janet. Price, Richard. O'Sullivan, Jennifer. Spielman, Alan. Campbell, Susan. Summary of testimony presented on the President's hospital cost containment proposal—H.R. 2626. July 1979. 52 p.

Issued as committee print 96–IFC 22, House Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce, Subcommittee on Health and the Environment, 96th Cong., 1st sess.

Cavanagh, Suzanne. Ahmuty, Alice. Lewis, Karen. Melnick, Daniel. Olson, Janice. Taylor, Bette. Zegel, Vikki. Women in America: a source book. [Jan. 5, 1979] 116 p.

Appears in U.S. Congress. Senate. Committee on Labor and Human Resources. The coming decade: American women and human resources policies and programs, 1979. Hearings, 96th Cong., 1st sess. Part 1. 1979. p. 1343–1458

Dodge, Christopher. Food additives. [July 1979] 25 p.
Appears in a committee print, Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry. Food safety: where are we? 1979. p. 34–58.

Education and Public Welfare Division. Health Section. Background material on health insurance: description of bills pending in committee and the administration proposal. June 14, 1979. 55 p.
Issued as committee print 96–17, Senate Committee on Finance, 96th Cong., 1st sess.

- - - - - Comparison of major features of health insurance proposals. June 1979. 29 p.
Issued as committee print CP 96–20, Senate Committee on Finance, 96th Cong., 1st sess.

Forbes, Stephanie. Competitive problems in the drug industry: psychotropic drugs; summary and analysis. Sept. 20, 1979. 112 p.
Issued as a committee print, Senate Select Committee on Small Business, 96th Cong., 1st sess.

Ford, Renee. Competitive problems in the drug industry: fixed-dose combination antibiotic drugs; summary and analysis. May 1, 1979. 94 p.
Issued as a committee print, Senate Select Committee on Small Business, Subcommittee on Monopoly, Economic Concentration and Anticompetitive Activities, 96th Cong., 1st sess.

Hartman, Sarah. Case history of FDA actions on MIT nitrite study. Aug. 1, 1979. 6 p.
Appears in the Congressional record [daily ed.] v. 125, Sept. 12, 1979: H7787–H7792.

- - - - - Factory sanitation inspection. [Feb. 6, 1979] 14 p.
Appears in a committee print, Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry. Food safety: where are we? 1979. p. 92–105.

Jolly, William. Fish and shellfish inspection programs. [Jan. 1979] 16 p.
Appears in a committee print, Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry. Food safety: where are we? 1979. p. 106–121.

Kline, Janet. Price, Richard. Bailey, Susan. Vialet, Joyce. Current health manpower issues. Oct. 1979. 78 p.
Issued as committee print 96–IFC–34, House Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce, 96th Cong., 1st sess.

Knisbacher, Susan. History of Federal food protection. [Feb. 6, 1979] 25 p.
Appears in a committee print, Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry. Food safety: where are we? 1979. p. 1–24.

Koitz, David. Background material on options for financing the social security programs. Sept. 24, 1979. 44 p.
Issued as committee print WMCP: 96–35, House Committee on Ways and Means, Subcommittee on Social Security, 96th Cong., 1st sess.
David Koitz assisted the subcommittee in preparing this document.

Lemke, Janet. Competitive problems in the drug industry: drug testing; summary and analysis. Nov. 9, 1979. 142 p.
Issued as a committee print, Senate Select Committee on Small Business, 96th Cong., 1st sess.

Malone, Margaret. Koitz, David. Issues related to Social Security Act disability programs. Oct. 1979. 139 p.
Issued as committee print CP 96–23, Senate Committee on Finance, 96th Cong., 1st sess.
CRS assisted the staff in the development of this document.

McNally, Jo-Ann. Chemical contaminants in food: pesticides. [Feb. 6, 1979] 13 p.
Appears in a committee print, Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry. Food safety: where are we? 1979. p. 68–80.

Reiss, Kay. Klebe, Edward. National health insurance: background print on selected health proposals on which testimony will be received during November 29, 1979, hearing. Nov. 27, 1979. 17 p.

Issued as joint committee print WMCP: 96–40 96–IFC 35, House Committee on Ways and Means, Subcommittee on Health, and House Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce, Subcommittee on Health and the Environment, 96th Cong., 1st sess.

CRS assisted the committees in preparing the document.

Richardson, Joe. Food stamp eligibility standards: for the 48 states and the District of Columbia (July to December 1979). [June 21, 1979] 1 p.

Appears in Senate report no. 96–236, Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry. 1979. p. 12.

Shipp, Royal. Ahmuty, Alice. Gladstone, Leslie. Goldich, Robert. Greenberg, Joel. Gronouski, Julie. Koitz, David. Morris, Marie. Schmitt, Raymond. Women and retirement income programs: current issues of equity and adequacy. Sept. 27, 1979. 225 p.

Issued as a committee print, House Select Committee on Aging, Subcommittee on Retirement Income, 96th Cong., 1st sess.

Smith, Nancy. Meat and poultry inspection programs. [Jan. 1979] 9 p.

Appears in a committee print, Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry. Food safety: where are we? 1979. p. 25–33.

Spielman, Alan. System for Hospital Uniform Reporting (SHUR). July 25, 1979. 7 p.

Issued as committee print WMCP: 96–32, House Committee on Ways and Means, Subcommittee on Health, 96th Cong., 1st sess.

Tager, Evelyn. Older Americans Act: a staff summary. July 1979. 124 p.

Issued as a committee print, House Select Committee on Aging, 96th Cong., 1st sess.

Zegel, Vikki. An outline of some cancer research policy options. May 11, 1979. 4 p.

Appears in U.S. Congress. House. Select Committee on Aging. Frontiers in cancer research for the elderly. Hearings, 96th Cong., 1st sess. 1979. p. 465–468.

ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Agnew, Allen. Bascle, Barbara. Annotated bibliography on selected areas of coal mining research and development. Feb. 15, 1979. 51 p.

Issued as a committee print, House Committee on Science and Technology, Subcommittee on Energy Development and Applications, 96th Cong., 1st sess.

Agnew, Allen. Speidel, David. Knisbacher, Sandra. McCullough, James. An overview of research in biogeochemistry and environmental health. Mar. 1979. 269 p.

Issued as a committee print, House Committee on Science and Technology, Subcommittee on Science, Research and Technology, 96th Cong., 1st sess.

Behrens, Carl. Kaufman, Alvin. Bodilly, Susan. Centralized vs. decentralized energy systems: diverging or parallel roads? [May 1, 1979] 312 p.

Issued as committee print 96–IFC 17, House Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce, Subcommittee on Energy and Power, 96th Cong., 1st sess.

Bell, Norma. Bamberger, Robert. Federal oversight of middle distillate inventories winter 1979–1980. Sept. 7, 1979. 2 p.

Appears in the Congressional record [daily ed.] v. 125, Oct. 11, 1979: S14397–S14398.

Biniek, Joseph. Carr, A. Barry. Blodgett, John. Smith, Nancy. Musgrove, Connie. Reisch, Mark. Womach, Jasper. Simmons, Malcolm. Wilcox, Walter. Agricultural and environmental relationships: issues and priorities. June 1979. 696 p.

Issued as a joint committee print, House Committee on Science and Technology, Subcommittee on Natural Resources and Environment, and House Committee on Agriculture, Subcommittee on Conservation and Credit, 96th Cong., 1st sess.

Biniek, Joseph. The status of environmental economics: an update. July 1979. 459 p.

Issued as a committee print, Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works, 96th Cong., 1st sess.

Blodgett, John. Reisch, Mark. Musgrove, Connie. Lee, Martin. Costello, George. Bascle, Barbara. Compensation for victims of water pollution. May 1979. 372 p.

Issued as a committee print, House Committee on Public Works and Transportation, Subcommittee on Oversight and Review, 96th Cong., 1st sess.

Blodgett, John. Biniek, Joseph. Copeland, Claudia. Grimes, Maria. Hughes, Steve. Simmons, Malcolm. Armitage, Amelia. Energy development project delays: six case studies. Sept. 21, 1979. 144 p.

Issued as a committee print, Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works, 96th Cong., 1st sess.

Brancato, Carolyn. The economic impact of a conservation bank. Oct. 15, 1979. 11 p.

Appears in Senate report no. 96–372, Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs. Conservation Bank Act. 1979. p. 36–46.

Bullis, Harold. Huddle, Franklin. A national policy for materials: research and resources; interim report. Dec. 1978. 126 p.

Issued as a committee print, House Committee on Science and Technology, Subcommittee on Science, Research and Technology, 95th Cong., 2d sess.

The report was written in major part by Harold Bullis with the assistance of Dr. Huddle and subcommittee staff.

Congressional Research Service. Bamberger, Robert. Energy initiatives of the 95th Congress. May 1979. 338 p.

Issued as a committee print, Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, 96th Cong., 1st sess.

Crane, Langdon. Energy conservation in cities. Dec. 1978. 117 p.

Issued as a committee print, House Committee on Science and Technology, Subcommittee on Advanced Technologies and Energy Conservation Research, Development and Demonstration. The print is volume II in a series entitled "Foresight."

Davis, David. Critique of the Energy Management Partnership Act (EMPA). Apr. 20, 1979. 44 p.

Issued as a committee print, Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, 96th Cong., 1st sess.

Davis, David. Mark, Clyde. Oil imports: a range of policy options. Nov. 1979. 31 p.

Issued as committee print 96–IFC 36, House Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce, Subcommittee on Energy and Power, 96th Cong., 1st sess.

Environment and Natural Resources Policy Division. Environmental protection affairs of the Ninety-fifth Congress. May 1979. 697 p.

Issued as a committee print, Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works, 96th Cong., 1st sess.

Fletcher, W. Wendell. Energy impact assistance: a background report. Oct. 1979. 25 p.

Issued as a committee print, Senate

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, 96th Cong., 1st sess.

Grimes, Maria. A case study of the proposal by the Hampton Roads Energy Company for construction of an oil refinery and marine terminal at Portsmouth, Virginia. Sept. 4, 1979. 15 p.
Appears in a committee print, Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works. Energy development project delays: six case studies. 1979. p. 89–103.

----- A legislative history of the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1977: a continuation of the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1970; together with a section-by-section index. Vol. 4. Aug. 1978. 1,667 p.
Issued as a committee print, Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works, 95th Cong., 2d sess.

----- A legislative history of the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1977: a continuation of the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1970; together with a section-by-section index. Vol. 5. Aug. 1978. 1,060 p.
Issued as a committee print, Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works, 95th Cong., 2d sess.

Hartman, Sarah. Case history of 2, 4, 5–T regulation. Oct. 19, 1979. 2 p.
Appears in the Congressional record [daily ed.] v. 125, Nov. 29, 1979: H11394–H11395.

Hogan, Harry. Analysis of Amendment 389 to Reclamation Reform Act of 1979. [Aug. 28, 1979] 3 p.
Appears in the Congressional record [daily ed.] v. 125, Sept. 10, 1979: S12303–S12305.

Hughes, Steve. A case study of the Pittston Company's proposal for construction of an oil refinery and marine terminal at Eastport, Maine. Sept. 17, 1979. 28 p.
Appears in a committee print, Senate Committee Energy development project delays: six case studies. 1979. p. 61-88.

Hughes, Steve. Bishop, Susan. List of enactments of the 95th Congress pertinent to natural resources, energy policy, and environmental management [Apr. 1979] 165 p.
Appears in a committee print, Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works. Environmental protection affairs of the Ninety-fifth Congress. 1979. p. 385–549.

Kaufman, Alvin. Bodilly, Susan. The economic impact of energy conservation. Dec. 1978. 492 p.
Issued as a committee print, House Committee on Science and Technology, Subcommittee on Advanced Energy Technologies and Energy Conservation Research, Development and Demonstration. The print is volume III in a series entitled "Foresight."

Kaufman, Alvin. World energy and the U.S. economy. [Jan. 2, 1979] 11 p.
Appears in a joint committee print, Joint Economic Committee. The U.S. role in a changing world political economy: major issues for the 96th Congress. 1979. p. 98–108.

Morrison, Robert. Possible effects on the atmosphere of large-scale helium extraction from the atmosphere. [July 26, 1979] 14 p.
Issued as committee print 96–IFC 30, House Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce, Subcommittee on Energy and Power, 96th Cong., 1st sess.

Phillips, Charlotte. Donnelly, Warren. Murphy, Patrick. West European nuclear energy development: implications for the United States. June 1979. 111 p.
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PREPARED STATEMENT OF THE R STREET INSTITUTE

To: Senate Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on the Legislative Branch

Re: Public Access to Legislative Information (Congressional Research Service)

May 12, 2017

Dear members of the subcommittee:

The following is a letter addressed to the chairmen and ranking members of the Joint Committee on the Library; the House and Senate legislative branch appropriations subcommittees; the Committee on House Administration; and the Senate Committee on Rules and Administration. It was signed by 25 former Congressional Research Service ("CRS") employees, with a combined 570 years of service with the agency. They formally request that Congress provide a central online source for timely public access to CRS reports, which would allow all members of the public to enjoy access on equal footing and to verify that the reports are authentic. The nonconfidential reports of other legislative-branch support agencies—such as the Congressional Budget Office, the Government Accountability Office, and the Library of Congress' law library—already are made available publicly. These former and retired CRS employees respectfully request the same of CRS reports.

25 former CRS employees: Give free public access to CRS reports

Dear Chairman Harper, Chairman Shelby, Chairman Yoder, Chairman Lankford, Ranking Member Brady, Ranking Member Klobuchar, Ranking Member Ryan, and Ranking Member Murphy:

We are 25 former employees of the Congressional Research Service (CRS) with a collective 570 years of service with the agency. We write in strong support of timely, comprehensive free public access to CRS reports. In doing so, we distinguish between CRS reports, which are non-confidential, and other CRS products, such as memoranda, which are confidential.

CRS plays a vital role in our legislative process by informing lawmakers and staff about important policy issues. To that end, nothing should impair CRS's ability to provide confidential support to members of Congress, such as through briefings and confidential memoranda. Nor should Congress take any steps to weaken the Constitutionally-protected status of CRS's work product. In contrast, CRS reports are widely available on Capitol Hill to staff and lobbyists alike, are released with no expectation of confidentiality, and could be of immense value to the general public.

Longstanding congressional policy allows Members and committees to distribute CRS products to the public, which they do in a variety of ways. In addition, CRS provides reports upon request to the judicial branch, to journalists, and to the executive branch, which often publishes them on agency websites. Insiders with relationships to congressional staff can easily obtain the reports, and well-resourced groups pay for access from third-party subscription services. Members of the public, however, can freely access only a subset of CRS reports, usually via third parties.

It is difficult for the public to know the scope of CRS products they could obtain from Congress. A Google search returned over 27,000 products including 4,260 hosted on .gov domains, but there is no way to know if those documents are up to date, whether the search is comprehensive, or when the documents might disappear from view.

We believe Congress should provide a central online source for timely public access to CRS reports. That would place all members of the public on an equal footing to one another with respect to access. It would resolve concerns around public and congressional use of the most up-to-date version. Additionally, it would ensure the public can verify it is using an authentic version. And it would diminish requests to analysts to provide a copy of the most recent report. Other legislative support agencies, i.e., the Congressional Budget Office and the Government Accountability Office, publish non-confidential reports on their websites as a matter of course. Doing so does not appear to harm their ability to perform their mission for Congress.

We thank you for the opportunity to share our thoughts on implementing full public access to non-confidential CRS reports. If you wish to discuss this further, please contact Daniel Schuman, Demand Progress policy director, at daniel@demandprogress.org, or Kevin Kosar, R Street Institute senior fellow and

governance director, at kkosar@rstreet.org. Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

With best regards,

Henry Cohen, George Costello, Heather Durkin, Gregg Esenwein, Louis Fisher, Peggy Garvin, Jeff Griffith, Pamela Hairston, Glennon J. Harrison, John Haskell, Kevin Holland, Thomas Hungerford, W. Jackson, Nancy Jones, Kevin Kosar, Jon Medalia, Jim Nichol, Elizabeth Palmer, Harold Relyea, Mort Rosenberg, Dick Rowberg, Daniel Schuman, Christine Scott, Sherry Shapiro, and Nye Stevens.

cc: Joint Committee on the Library
House Legislative Branch Appropriations Subcommittee
Senate Legislative Branch Appropriations Subcommittee
Committee on House Administration
Senate Committee on Rules and Administration
Leadership of the House of Representatives
Leadership of the United States Senate

[This statement was submitted by Sasha Moss, Tech Policy Manager.]