

MEMORANDUM

TO: Andrew Sherman, Acting Director, U.S. GPO
FROM: James Shaw, for the Depository Library Council
DATE: March 26, 2018
SUBJECT: DLC support for H.R. 5305, *FDLP Modernization Act of 2018*

The Depository Library Council has reviewed H.R. 5305, the *FDLP Modernization Act of 2018*, and we wish to express our support for the bill. This legislation will update and revise the Federal Depository Library Program, so that it can continue its long history of providing the public with free to access Federal government information.

The FDLP represents a remarkably effective partnership between libraries and the GPO, and we are grateful for changes that recognize its continued importance. Depository libraries not only provide access to information, but also to knowledgeable staff who offer research assistance and referrals. We think H.R. 5305 will strengthen the FDLP and provide a firm foundation for the program going forward.

We especially appreciate that H.R. 5305 clearly specifies that the GPO and the “offices of Government” must work together to ensure that Federal publications be identified and incorporated into the FDLP. Provisions that bolster authentication address concerns about the provenance and trustworthiness of Federal government information. Respect for user privacy encourages the public to take full advantage of electronic resources.

We appreciate that the Committee on House Administration invested much time and effort to consult stakeholders and to gather information to inform its deliberations. We think that H.R. 5305 addresses present concerns while also providing flexibility that will keep the FDLP strong and viable for years to come. We are happy to lend our support to the bill, and we thank you for conveying our thoughts to the Committee.

Cc/Laurie Hall, Superintendent of Documents, U.S. GPO