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March 16, 2018

The Honorable Gregg Harper, (R) MS-03
Chairman, Committee on House Administration
1309 Longworth Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Robert Brady (D) PA-01
Ranking Member, Committee on House Administration
2004 Rayburn Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Harper and Ranking Member Brady,

I'm writing in support of the FDLP Modernization Act of 2018 (H.R. 5305). This bill will modernize the Federal Depository Library Program (FDLP) and provide for no-fee permanent public access to government information.

MLA was pleased to join the American Association of Law Libraries in sending recommendations for Title 44 reform to the Committee in September 2017. We thank the Committee for incorporating many of our recommendations.

Health sciences libraries and librarians within and outside of the FDLP support regional and selective depositories by providing access to health and biosciences publications and information. The Eccles Health Sciences Library, University of Utah, has been a member of the FDLP since 1970, selecting and providing links to online federal government publications in the medical and health sciences. The National Library of Medicine (NLM) entered into a content partnership with the FDLP in 2000 to provide permanent public access, without restrictions, to online U.S. government information resources.

We believe that modest changes to Title 44, with agreement from the library community, will allow regional and selective libraries to continue to find value in the program while keeping true to the FDLP's mission "to provide free, ready, and permanent public access to Federal Government information, now and for future generations."

MLA thanks the Committee for its commitment to updating the FDLP. We look forward to the bill's passage.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Barbara A. Epstein". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Barbara A. Epstein, AHIP, FMLA
President, Medical Library Association
Director, University of Pittsburgh Health Sciences Library System