

Libraries Support Funding for LC & GPO

by Bradley Houseton, ARL

On February 10, the House Subcommittee on Legislative Appropriations convened to hear testimony regarding the Fiscal Year 2000 budget requests of the Library of Congress (LC) and the Government Printing Office (GPO), among other government institutions that rely on legislative branch appropriations. Two representatives testified on behalf of five library associations: ARL, ALA, AALL, MLA, and SLA. Patricia Wand, University Librarian, American University, gave testimony in support of LC's FY2000 budget request. Ridley Kessler, Jr., Regional Documents Librarian, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, gave testimony in support of GPO's FY2000 budget request.

In her remarks, Patricia Wand stressed the importance of LC's role in the larger library community across the nation. She cited the growth of the digital networked environment and how the Library is meeting the challenge of efficiently disseminating information to users through new technologies and equipment. In support of the Library of Congress's total budget request of \$383.7 million, Ms. Wand focused her testimony on Services for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, Technology Initiatives, the Law Library, Security Measures, and the Staff Success Program.

Ridley R. Kessler, Jr. noted the significance of public access to government information and how this access is based on principles the library community and Congress deem essential in our democracy. In addition, Mr. Kessler emphasized the importance of the partnership that exists between the GPO and the regional depository libraries and the collective efforts to carefully make the transition to a more electronic Federal Depository Library Program (FDLP), while maintaining the level of tangible materials, including print, microfiche, maps, CD-ROM, etc. In support of the GPO Public Printer's total FY2000 budget request of \$31.2 million, Mr. Kessler focused his testimony on FDLP electronic resources and collections, *GPO Access*, and the revision of U.S.C. Title 44.

Patricia Wand's and Ridley Kessler's full testimonies are available at <http://www.arl.org/info/letters/>.

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