
News Release



UNITED
STATES
GOVERNMENT
PRINTING
OFFICE

For Release: IMMEDIATE
March 19, 1998

Contact: 202-512-1991
No. 98-7

GPO COMPLETES CONGRESSIONAL TESTIMONY ON 1999 BUDGET REQUEST

On Thursday, March 19, 1998, GPO testified before the Senate Subcommittee on Legislative Branch Appropriations, completing the presentation before Congress of its budget request for fiscal year 1999. GPO testified before the House Subcommittee on Legislative Appropriations on February 5.

For FY 1999, GPO is requesting a total of \$114.2 million. The request includes \$84 million for GPO's Congressional Printing and Binding Appropriation and \$30.2 million for the Salaries and Expenses Appropriation of the Superintendent of Documents.

GPO's budget request is an increase of \$3.5 million, or 3.1 percent, over the level of funding approved for FY 1998. This is the lowest rate of increase requested by any of the congressional support agencies for FY 1999. GPO's appropriations have declined by 7 percent over the past 5 years, due to downsizing and increased use of technology as well as reductions in workload.

In presenting GPO's budget request, Public Printer Michael F. DiMario noted, "In GPO the Government has a unique asset that today combines a comprehensive range of conventional and electronic capabilities to fully support the information product needs of Congress, Federal agencies, and the American public."

The Congressional Printing and Binding Appropriation covers the costs of congressional printing such as the ***Congressional Record***, bills, reports, hearings, documents, and other products. Each year, a substantial volume of this work is requisitioned from GPO. In FY 1997, more than 1.3 billion copy pages of congressional products were produced at an average cost of less than 4 cents per page, inclusive of all database work, production, and delivery in both conventional and electronic formats. It covers the cost of building congressional information databases for dissemination via ***GPO Access***, GPO's award-winning Internet service (<http://www.access.gpo.gov>).

The majority of the Superintendent of Documents Salaries and Expenses Appropriation is for the Federal Depository Library Program, under which Government publications are distributed in print, microfiche, or electronic formats to approximately 1,400 libraries nationwide for the free use of the public. It also funds the cataloging and indexing of Government publications, the distribution of Government publications as required by law, and the distribution of U.S. Government publications to foreign libraries which in turn agree to provide copies of their official publications to the Library of Congress. In addition, this appropriation provides the majority of funding for **GPO Access**, through which the public is now retrieving more than 10 million Government documents each month.