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The Librarian of Congress
Before the
Subcommittee on the Legislative Branch
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate

Fiscal 2022 Budget Request
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Chairman Reed, Ranking Member Braun, and Members of the Subcommittee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of the Library's fiscal 2022 budget.

The Library of Congress has built one of the largest collection of human knowledge ever assembled in support of its mission to engage, inspire, and inform Congress and the American people with a universal and enduring source of information and creativity. We are an authoritative source of knowledge to be used for a purpose. My top priority as Librarian of Congress remains expanded user access to the Library's resources and services. We constantly strive to find ways to share our extraordinary riches more broadly and deeply.

When the pandemic struck a little over a year ago, the Library needed to move rapidly to adopt new approaches to carrying out its mission of serving the Congress and the American people while at the same time ensuring that employees and contractors were able to work in safety. Thanks to congressional support for investments in IT infrastructure over the past several years, the Library's network was able to handle an 800 percent increase in the remote workforce. Essential services including CRS and the United States Copyright Office were able to operate largely as normal. The Library continued to provide public access by creating new programs, reimagining others, and offering them online. The 20th National Book Festival was hosted entirely online. When many schools closed, the Library created teacher webinars, virtual student workshops, and a loc.gov/engage page with information about resources, activities and programs. Planned digital initiatives, such as the LC Collections mobile app and innovator-in-residence projects, moved forward quickly to provide new ways for Congress and the public to engage with the Library. We just launched a new initiative to assemble and preserve a well-balanced collection of archived pandemic-related web content that will fully tell the story of COVID-19 for researchers of tomorrow. In addition, with congressional support and private

philanthropy, we remained on schedule to open the Visitor Experience in phases beginning in late calendar 2022. Although planning is ongoing for a phased return to in-person operations and reopening to visitors and onsite researchers as conditions allow, it is clear that the Library needs to ensure that digital innovations can be sustained and even accelerated to meet evolving expectations.

This was certainly a challenging year and I am pleased to report that we continued to make progress in sharing more of the Library's collections, programming, and staff expertise. Today, the Library holds more than 171 million items, including special collections consisting of audio materials, maps, moving images, sheet music and much more. Over 6.8 million preservation actions were performed on the physical collections. The Library responded to 802,676 reference requests from Congress, the public, and other federal agencies, including direct use of CRS reports. The Copyright Office issued over 443,911 copyright registrations and recorded 7,098 documents containing 233,694 titles. In fiscal 2020, Library web properties experienced the largest volume of traffic in Library history. Those properties (excluding congress.gov and copyright.gov) recorded more than 117 million visits and 647 million page views — increases of 39 percent and 58 percent, respectively. Mobile visits made up 46 percent of those visits, an increase of nine percentage points over the previous fiscal year. And before the mid-March closing to the public, the Library welcomed 565,388 in-person visitors.

The Library also continued direct services to the public with the Veterans History Project and Teaching with Primary Sources, a program that allows teachers in the local districts to create curricula and develop apps using the Library's digitized primary sources.

Of special note is the National Library Service for the Blind and Print Disabled (NLS) and its network of state and local libraries, which circulated more than 20.3 million copies of braille, audio and large print items to patrons. I would like to recognize NLS Director Karen Keninger, who joined the Library in 2012 after serving as director of the Iowa Department for the Blind and as regional librarian for the Iowa Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped. Ms. Keninger's priorities for NLS at the outset were to leverage advancing technology and expand content for all print-disabled persons. Under her leadership, NLS embraced innovative technology, in just one example, by providing braille digitally with new refreshable braille technology. Working with the communities, Ms. Keninger expanded eligibility for NLS programs and advocated for a name change to highlight service to the print disabled. She made a special commitment to working with veterans' groups. She also developed partnerships with major audiobook producers that doubled the output of new talking books and implemented international partnerships to enable the cross-border exchange of materials. Karen Keninger will retire at the end of May.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude for the outstanding support that this committee and the entire Congress give to the Library. In particular, I appreciate the funding you have provided for our fiscal 2021 requests to meet high-priority needs such as cybersecurity enhancements to protect sensitive information from CRS, the Law Library, the Copyright Office, and other high-value assets. Modernization efforts funded in fiscal 2021 also supported state-of-the art shelving for Law Library collections in Quad B and enhanced science and technology research capacity in CRS.

I also thank you for your continued support for the collections storage modules at Fort Meade as part of the Architect of the Capitol's budget. Construction is underway for Storage Module 6, the first double-wide unit. Although initial designs for Storage Module 7 are now complete, following the attack on January 6, $30 million from the AOC's budget designated for Storage Module 7 was diverted to pay for the fencing surrounding the campus. We understood the necessity to cover this immediate security need of the campus, and ask that this vital funding for Ft. Meade Storage Module 7 be restored to the AOC's budget as part of any security supplemental spending bill.

I come before you today to discuss the Library's fiscal 2022 appropriations request. The funding request aligns with the strategic goals set forth in the Library's Strategic Plan: expand access, enhance services, optimize resources, and measure impact.

The Library of Congress fiscal 2022 budget request is for approximately $845.982 million, which represents a 5.5 percent increase over the Library's fiscal 2021 enacted appropriation. This request includes $24.28 million in mandatory pay and price level increases. The balance of the increase represents critical program investments necessary to fulfill the Library's role and to continue to modernize our operations and technology, ensure the safety and security of Library collections and our workforce, and adjust to rapidly changing needs.

The budget seeks to modernize the legacy Integrated Library System (ILS) and several related systems that provide access to the Library's collections. The existing ILS is 25-year-old technology that the Library put into place in 1999 in preparation for Y2K. The ILS is at the end of its life, with systems that cannot interface, and is likely to fail within the next few years. The replacement, a modern Library Collections Access Platform (L-CAP), used in major academic libraries, will be the heart of Library collections management, physical and digital, for the next generation. Designed to be closely integrated with a wide range of Library systems, L-CAP will employ the latest technology to manage the acquisition, description and inventory of Library collections and facilitate access for Library employees, Congress and the public. The Library is

ready for the L-CAP now because substantial IT infrastructure improvements are in place and we have gained experience with other major IT modernization efforts. We will use continuous integration and continuous delivery development practices to sustain the system to allow L-CAP to meet the Library's evolving needs, including management of exponentially growing digital collections and advancements in technology.

In another move toward modernization, in this case to take the next step in beginning to optimize and modernize financial management and planning in the Financial Services Directorate and across the Library, we are requesting funding to establish a new Enterprise Planning & Management (EPM) program. Financial modernization is an iterative process that must continue to stabilize current accounting activities and at the same time move forward to introduce new capabilities and principles. To meet audit findings concerning cost estimating and cost accounting, this initial EPM funding request will build a base of expertise in the Library in cost management as well as data science and data architecture, and develop processes necessary to optimize cost management practices and lay the foundation necessary for the implementation of more advanced financial planning capabilities and technology. Ultimately, the EPM program will use the Library's financial management and planning data to drive decision making to improve performance in programs, projects, and activities surrounding the Library's investments.

Pandemic operations, as well as heightened physical security threats for U.S. government agencies, particularly legislative branch agencies, have focused attention on necessary enhancements to ensure the safety and security of the Library's workforce and its collections. The Library is working closely with the U.S. Capitol Police (USCP) and the Architect of the Capitol (AOC) to ensure that safety and security measures are appropriately implemented. The most recent security incident on April 2nd reminded us that we will have to remain more vigilant for the foreseeable future.

The budget request includes a funding request to modernize the Library's nearly 20-year-old Integrated Electronic Security System (IESS), which is used by both the Library and the USCP for physical security monitoring of Library facilities and access from the Library to the broader Capitol Complex. The system is at the center of a complex network of more than 10,000 cameras, motion sensors, electronic door locks, and other controls that regulate access to Library facilities and safeguard staff, visitors, collections, and high-value assets. The outdated analog video camera components lack the high-resolution necessary to fully monitor and investigate pedestrian and vehicle traffic in and around our buildings. The request will allow the Library to completely overhaul the security system components with a sustainable life-cycle

management program, and modernize the IESS IT network infrastructure, bringing it into compliance with Library IT security standards.

Funding is also requested to allow the Library to replace its outdated and inadequate 3G Cellular Distributed Antenna System. The current 3G system, installed in 2004, covers only about 50 percent of Library facilities. It is at the end of its service life and is incompatible with advanced 5G connectivity. On January 6, USCP and AOC employees reported multiple dropped cellular connections and the inability to initiate calls out of Library facilities, delaying time-critical communications and coordination. The request will allow the Library to implement a modern cellular solution that will ensure connectivity, and by extension, improve safety for the USCP, AOC and Library staff, and congressional and Library visitors.

The budget requests increased funding to allow the Library to implement the same advanced level of IT security across both its on-premises data centers and Cloud hosting environments. This will ensure that Library data, including congressional and copyright information, are secured at all times, leveraging artificial intelligence to identify anomalous and malicious behavior.

Remote work during the pandemic highlighted the need to better support Library employees with work-anywhere-anytime functionality and advanced virtual collaboration tools. The budget requests funding to expedite the transition of the Library from legacy Microsoft Office tools to the Microsoft 365 Government productivity platform for all staff. The request aligns the Library with congressional adoption of Microsoft 365 and ensures a smooth transition away from the Office suite, which Microsoft has announced will no longer be supported after 2025.

Finally, this budget requests the funding required to fully implement the Copyright Alternative in Small-Claims Enforcement (CASE) Act with the creation of a "small claims court" within the Copyright Office. The Copyright Claims Board (CCB) will work to resolve civil copyright claims, counterclaims, and defenses in the CCB as an efficient and inexpensive alternative to using the federal courts. The request will support the necessary staffing for the CCB and the implementation of an electronic filing and case management system with electronic acceptance of claims filings, fees, and litigation pleadings.

In closing, the 2022 Congressional Budget Justification continues a sequence of strategically planned modernization efforts of all types across the enterprise. The Library's budget request also seeks to support the security of the collections and the safety of our workforce and visitors, and to help the Library meet quickly changing needs. Chairman Reed, Ranking Member Braun, and Members of the Subcommittee, thank you again for supporting the Library of Congress and for your consideration of our fiscal 2022 request.