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**Prepared Statement before the
Subcommittee on Legislative Branch
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. Senate**

**United States Government Publishing Office
FY 2026 Budget Hearing**

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U.S. GOVERNMENT PUBLISHING OFFICE

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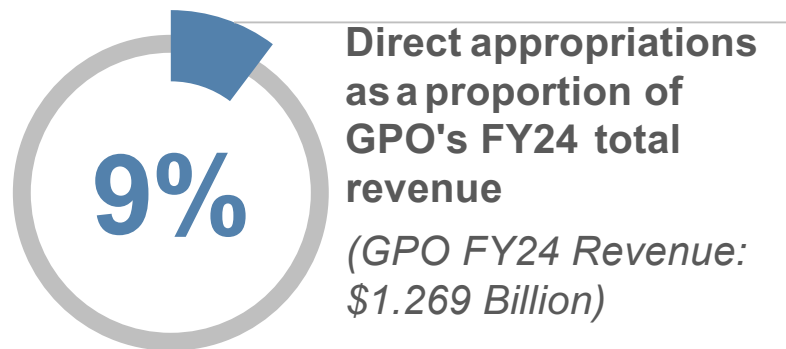
Mr. Chairman, Ranking Member Heinrich, and Members of the Subcommittee, I am honored to appear before the Subcommittee on Legislative Branch Appropriations to present the Government Publishing Office's (GPO's) fiscal year 2026 appropriations request. Thank you for your past support of GPO, and I look forward to working closely with you and your staff in the coming year.

I am requesting appropriations of \$135,377,000 for fiscal year 2026, an increase of \$3,378,000 over our FY 2025 appropriation.

This request incorporates increased labor and material costs while accommodating certain initiatives of importance to Congress and the rest of the legislative branch. Our FY 2026 request represents a 2.6 percent increase over FY 2025. It is also 8.2 percent lower than the Agency's all-time high appropriation of \$147.5 million in FY 2010.

GPO operates as a business enterprise, and directly appropriated funds represent only about nine percent of GPO's revenue. In FY 2024, the remainder of our nearly \$1.3 billion in revenue came from GPO's billings to its other Federal customers, such as the Department of State, the National Archives and Records Administration, the Department of Defense, and countless others (*See figure 1*).

Figure 1



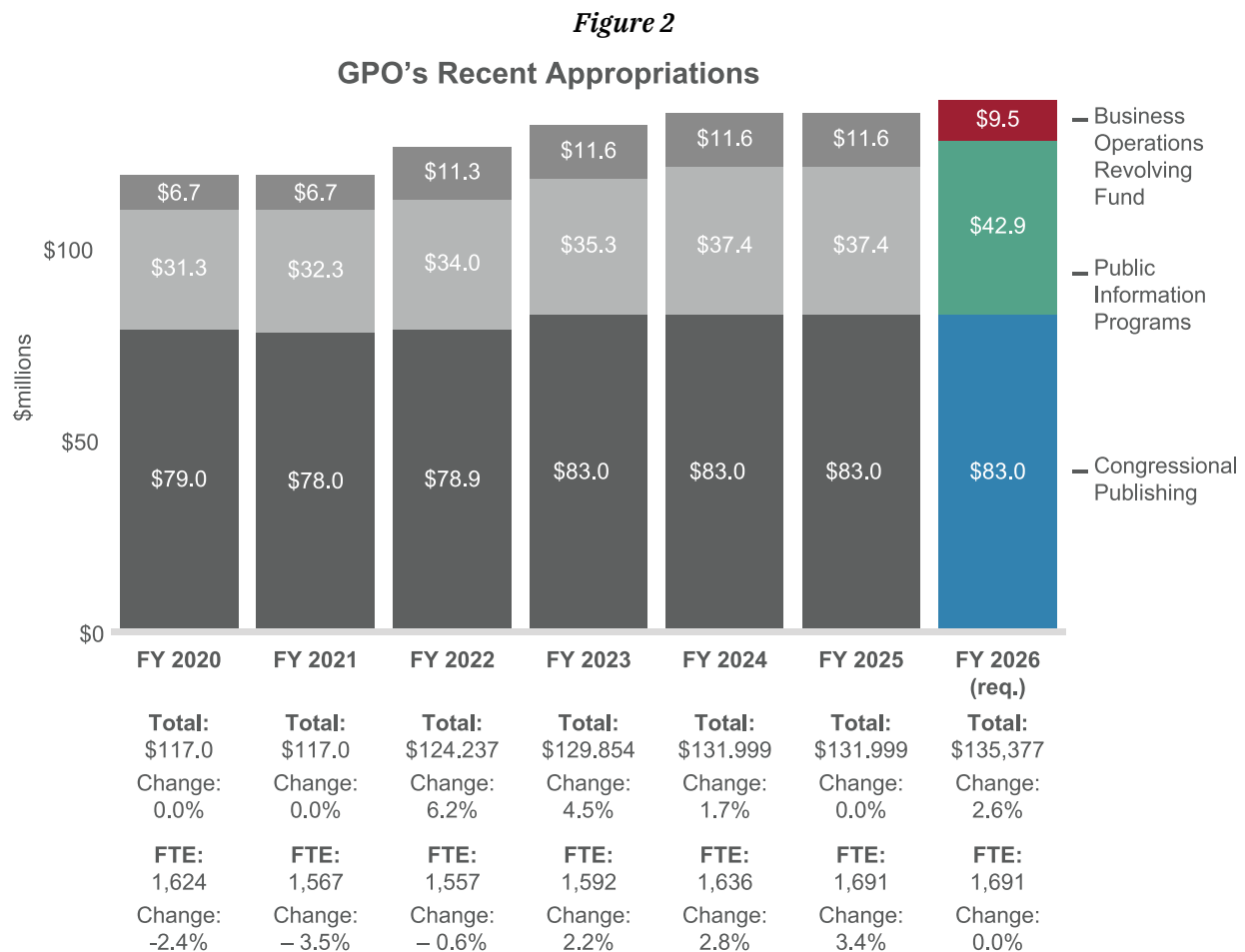
Those customers pay for products with pricing based on GPO's statutory requirement to recover its costs, meaning that we adjust pricing based on the cost of materials, labor, and overhead. As most of GPO's appropriations requests are based on funding for Congress' publishing needs and the Agency's operation of the Federal Depository Library Program, we have also had to increase our appropriations requests when faced with increased costs.

Our model continues to deliver results. For the 28th consecutive year, GPO received an unmodified, or "clean," opinion on its financial statements, showing that we closed our books for fiscal year 2024 with a net positive income of \$57.5 million. That is our fourth consecutive positive result and will enable us to continue investing in our team, equipment, and campus. It is also important to note that, given the conditions with our customers and increased materials costs, I expect our net income to be lower in FY 2025, though still positive.

GPO'S FY 2026 APPROPRIATIONS REQUEST

GPO requests a total FY 2026 appropriation of \$135,377,000, a \$3,378,000 increase over our FY 2025 appropriation. This increase will account for changes in our labor and raw materials costs and fund ongoing projects important to our congressional customers.

Increased productivity through adopting new technologies has been key to keeping GPO's appropriations needs down, providing new and improved services at lower costs, and reducing overall headcounts. *Figure 2* shows GPO's recent appropriations amounts and requests. Currently, we have 1,644 GPO teammates, compared to 2,284 in FY 2010 when GPO's direct appropriations were 8.2 percent higher.



We prefer repurposing prior-year unexpended balances to keep our appropriations requests as low as possible. We appreciate the willingness of this Subcommittee and the Full Committee to allow GPO to use those balances in support of programs and capital investments that benefit the original purpose of the appropriated funds.

However, as I have mentioned previously, those balances are declining, forcing GPO to request additional funds to continue our current pace of development and innovation.

Our FY 2026 request includes \$83,000,000 for congressional publishing, the same amount as our FY 2025 appropriation. It is based on our estimate of Congress' likely needs, informed by historical trends and available unexpended balances, and includes increased raw materials and labor costs. In constant-dollar terms, it represents a 38 percent reduction since FY 2010.

Our request for the Public Information Programs (PIP) account, through which we administer the nationwide Federal Depository Library Program, is \$42,852,000. This represents an increase of \$5,464,000—or 14.6 percent—over FY 2025 and will cover the costs of providing Federal Government publications in digital and tangible formats to 1,100 Federal depository libraries nationwide, cataloging and indexing, and distributing documents to recipients designated by law and international exchanges. Rising labor and materials costs drive this increase in our FY 2026 PIP appropriation request. With this proposed increase, the PIP appropriation will be just 4.74 percent higher than the amount appropriated in FY 2010 but still 27 percent lower in constant-dollar terms.

The final component of our overall appropriations request is for a total of \$9,525,000 for GPO's revolving fund to support capital investments and information technology upgrades, which is \$2,086,000 less than the amounts appropriated in FY 2025.

This component of our request is critical to ensuring that GPO can make the capital investments in equipment and technology needed to continue providing Congress and our Federal agency customers with the high level of service they expect. It will support two specific longstanding priority capital investment projects listed below that will be familiar to the Subcommittee.

► XPub

First, in FY 2026 we seek \$4,075,000 in direct appropriations support for our continued development of the XPub composition system, which is intended to fully replace our more than 40-year-old proprietary MicroComp composition system.

XPub is a transformational project for GPO. It will enable GPO and our customers to move to an all XML-composition workflow, simplifying authoring and production while also providing data in a format where it can easily be posted on the web, delivered to mobile devices, and repurposed into e-books, mobile web applications, or other forms of content delivery which contribute to openness and transparency in Government.

XPub is being deployed on a product-by-product basis. In FY 2019, GPO took a major step forward by publishing the 2018 Main Edition of the United States Code, a nearly 60,000-page publication, through XPub. Since then, GPO has continued to work on bringing additional publications into XPub production, with a focus on congressional bills, resolutions, amendments, public laws, Statutes at Large, House and Senate calendars, the Congressional Record, and the Federal Register.

In FY 2022, GPO obtained the internal authority to operate for the production release of congressional bills and public laws, which is currently in testing with our House and Senate customers. Its features include integrating House and Senate XML authoring tools for bills and a new responsive HTML format for displaying congressional bills and public laws once fully deployed.

Much of the initial development of XPub had been funded through the annual reprogramming of unexpended appropriations with the Subcommittee's support, but given GPO's mostly static appropriations requests in recent years, those prior-year funds have been largely expended. We appreciate the Subcommittee's support for more than \$21 million in direct appropriations for this project since FY 2022.

If approved, our \$4,075,000 appropriation request will keep XPub development and deployment on track in FY 2026. Once development is complete, we hope to provide XPub to our customers as a software-as-a-service (SAAS) application, ensuring that there is a dedicated stream of income to support the continued development of the platform without the need for separate recurring appropriations.

► GovInfo

The second component of GPO's request for increased capital investment appropriations in FY 2026 relates to the continued development of our peerless GovInfo online portal, the only ISO-certified trusted digital repository in the U.S. In recent years, the Subcommittee directly appropriated funds to refresh GovInfo's infrastructure and further develop its content collections. This year's request of \$5,450,000 for GovInfo is the same amount the Subcommittee provided in FY 2025, and it would be divided between infrastructure investments (\$1,800,000) and development investments (\$3,650,000), including development required to support the digitization of historical content.

Investments in GovInfo support the distribution of much of the legislative data that supports the Library of Congress' Congress.gov site and the bulk data made available for other public uses. In addition, GovInfo helps keep the costs of administering the Federal Depository Library Program down by making hundreds of thousands of critical Government publications available online free of charge, obviating the need to print and distribute thousands of volumes annually.

With the Subcommittee's sustained support, GPO has been able to add hundreds of thousands of additional documents and publications to the GovInfo online repository each year—over 260 thousand content packages in FY 2024—and the public's usage of GovInfo continues to grow, with nearly 142 million information retrievals a month from GovInfo throughout FY 2024.

OIG REQUEST

Lastly, before I conclude, I want to add that, as required by section 1604(c) of the Legislative Branch Inspectors General Independence Act, we have forwarded our Inspector General's request for \$7,708,000 in budget authority for FY 2026 as part of our FY 2026 Budget Submission. Currently, that request is funded as part of GPO's agency overhead—a component of the prices and rates GPO charges its agency customers and Congress—and not as a separate appropriation.

CONCLUSION

Chairman Mullin, Ranking Member Heinrich, and Members of the Subcommittee, thank you for this opportunity to present GPO's FY 2026 appropriations request, and for all the support you and your staff have extended to us during these challenging past two years. This completes my prepared statement, and I look forward to answering any questions you may have.