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**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND  
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ASSISTANT MAJORITY WHIP

April 14, 2016

The Honorable Tom Graves  
Chairman  
Legislative Branch Subcommittee,  
House Committee on Appropriations  
HT-2 The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

**RE: DEFUND CENSORSHIP AT THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS**

Dear Chairman Graves:

I am writing to request that you include language in the FY2017 Legislative Branch Appropriations bill to prohibit the use of funds by the Library of Congress to unilaterally change and eliminate its subject headings "Aliens" and "Illegal Aliens."

The Library of Congress announced on March 22, 2016 its decision to unilaterally revise the subject heading "Aliens" and change it to "Noncitizens." The Library also announced that it will eliminate the subject heading "Illegal Aliens" and replace it as a "former heading" that will reference both "Noncitizens" and "Unauthorized immigration."

As you know, the terms "alien" and "illegal alien" are used throughout federal laws adopted by Congress and signed into law by Presidents of both parties. The Library's attempt to unilaterally censor these terms disregards their meaning and use in the current United States Code. By acting in the interest of partisanship, rather than in the interest of providing both Congress and the public unbiased access to information, the Library is undermining its credibility and ignoring its responsibility to provide the American people with impartial and accurate access to its many resources.

It is my hope that you will consider including language in the FY2017 Legislative Branch Appropriations bill to prohibit the use of funds by the Library of Congress to implement its planned revision and elimination of these subject headings.

Thank you for your timely attention to this matter, and for your service as Chairman of the Legislative Branch Subcommittee of the House Committee on Appropriations. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michael R. Turner".

Michael R. Turner  
Member of Congress