



January 4, 2016

The Honorable Marsha Blackburn  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Blackburn:

The Business Coalition for Fair Competition ([BCFC](http://www.governmentcompetition.org)) is pleased to support the Preventing Government Publishing Overreach Act of 2015 ([H.R. 3767](#)), legislation prohibiting the Government Publishing Office (GPO) from assembling or manufacturing secure credentials or their component parts.

BCFC ([www.governmentcompetition.org](http://www.governmentcompetition.org)) is a national coalition of businesses, associations, taxpayer organizations and think tanks that are committed to reducing all forms of unfair government created, sponsored and provided competition with the private sector. H.R. 3767 would amend title 44, United States Code (U.S.C.), preventing GPO from engaging in unfair government competition with and duplication of the private sector in the secure credential marketplace.

GPO has become so entrepreneurial that it is aggressively attempting to expand its current product and services offering and thereby removing opportunities for private sector firms to perform commercially available goods and services. In its [2014-2018 Strategic Plan](#), the GPO identified its Secure Credentials "business line" as a revenue generator for the GPO to offset the agency's overhead expenses on the core functions GPO was created to perform. Plans call for creating "New Smart Card Products" to sell to Federal agencies – such as secure immigration documents or government-issued ID cards. We believe such activities constitute unfair government competition with private enterprise, including small business.

84% of the GPO's operating budget comes from funds not appropriated by Congress, but on the revenue gained from selling publications or products to Federal agencies and the public. This increasing business includes manufacturing and selling secure credentials through sole sourced contracts misinterpreted by GPO's claim to title 44 that would otherwise be manufactured and sold by the private sector. GPO can charge any price it wants because ultimately the one paying the tab is the US taxpayer. And all of that money is funneled back into the revolving fund of the GPO to buy more equipment and services to compete with the private sector. GPO's continued production of identity credentials and growing encroachment within the secure credential market for the US Government is a waste of taxpayer dollars as it duplicates commercially available goods and services already found in the private sector by taxpaying for-profit companies.

BCFC believes the free enterprise system is the most productive and efficient provider of goods and services and strongly supports the federal government utilizing the private sector for commercially available products and services to the maximum extent possible. H.R. 3767 will create a competitive environment in which all participants play by the same rules, thereby helping to support BCFC's goal. We respectfully and enthusiastically support H.R. 3767.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John M. Palatiello". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "John" being particularly prominent.

John M. Palatiello, President

cc:

Rep. Mark Walker, original cosponsor of H.R. 3767, the "Preventing Government Publishing Overreach Act of 2015";  
Rep. Candice Miller, Chair, Committee on House Administration;  
Rep. Gregg Harper, Chair, Joint Committee on Printing; and  
Additional cosponsors of H.R. 3767