

PHIL GINGREY, M.D.

11TH DISTRICT, GEORGIA
WWW.HOUSE.GOV/GINGREY

442 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-2931 PHONE
(202) 225-2944 FAX

219 ROSWELL STREET
MARIETTA, GA 30060
(770) 429-1776

100 NORTH STREET, SUITE 150
CANTON, GA 30114
(770) 345-2931

135 WEST CHEROKEE AVENUE
CARTERSVILLE, GA 30120
(678) 721-2509



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

July 31, 2014

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Stop Anti-Competitive Practices at GPO
Cosponsor H.R. 5268, the Preventing Government Printing Overreach Act

Dear Colleague:

As is obvious from its name, the Government Printing Office (GPO) was organized to do government printing. GPO's stated mission is to "produce, protect, preserve, and distribute the official publications and information products of the Federal Government." Somehow, GPO has interpreted this to mean that "printing" includes the creation of secure federal credentials.

Secure credentials require complicated component security parts that involve electronic storage capability and specialized manufacturing techniques. Production and assembly of secure credentials cannot reasonably be classified as printing, yet GPO continues to overstep its mission. Private sector companies that for years have had government contracts to efficiently and effectively produce secure credentials for various federal agencies are under threat of losing those contracts as the GPO expands its reach.

We firmly believe that competitive contracting is an important part of ensuring that the government gets the best product for the best price. However, when GPO—or any government agency—steps in and produces goods that are already effectively produced by the private sector, it harms competition and can dampen innovation and jeopardize private sector job creation.

To that end, we have introduced H.R. 5268 to prohibit GPO from assembling or manufacturing secure credentials or their component parts. It simply doesn't make sense for GPO—under the guise of printing—to duplicate the work the private sector is already successfully doing in producing secure credentials.

If you have any questions or would like to cosponsor this legislation, please contact Sally Rose Larson in Congressman Gingrey's office at 5-2931 or sally.larson@mail.house.gov or Sean McLean in Congressman Blackburn's office at 5-2811 or sean.mclean@mail.house.gov.

Sincerely,

Phil Gingrey, M.D.
Member of Congress

Marsha Blackburn
Member of Congress