

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 2, 2014

The Honorable Tom Harkin  
Chairman  
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on  
Labor, Health and Human Services and  
Education  
131 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Jerry Moran  
Ranking Member  
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on  
Labor, Health and Human Services and  
Education  
156 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Harkin and Ranking Member Moran:

We are writing to thank you for your previous support for the Office of Museum Services (OMS) at the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) and to urge the Subcommittee to support robust funding for OMS in the FY 2015 Labor, Health and Human Services and Education Appropriations bill. The Office of Museum Services is currently authorized to receive \$38.6 million annually.

Despite its small size, the IMLS Office of Museum Services is the largest dedicated source of investment in our nation's more than 17,500 museums, which employ over 400,000 Americans and directly contribute \$21 billion to the U.S. economy each year. OMS funding multiplies this economic impact by helping museums reach more visitors and spur community development. In addition to the economic benefits of this funding, OMS grants also support museums' advancements in areas such as technology, lifelong community learning, and conservation and preservation.

The demand for museum services is greater than ever. At a time when school resources are strained and many families are struggling to make ends meet, museums are working overtime to fill the gaps. Every year, museums provide more than 18 million instructional hours to children and bring art, science, and cultural heritage into communities. Further, our nation's museums are opening their doors to more people than ever with over 850 million visits each year – with many of these visitors offered free or reduced admission. Museums are also part of a robust nonprofit community working to address a wide range of our nation's greatest challenges, from conducting medical research to hosting supervised visits for the family court system, and from creating energy efficient public buildings to collecting food for needy families.

In 2010, IMLS was unanimously reauthorized by both the House and Senate. The agency is highly accountable, and its competitive, peer-reviewed grants leverage significant private resources while supporting museums in every state. The re-authorization contained several provisions to further

support museums, particularly at the state level, but many of the recently authorized activities cannot be accomplished without sustained funding.

We urge the Subcommittee to support robust funding for the IMLS Office of Museum Services for FY15 to support the important work museums are doing in our communities. This vital funding will aid museums and enable them to continue bolstering the economy, serving our schools, and preserving our cultural heritage for future generations.

Again, we appreciate the Subcommittee's prior support for OMS and request this investment to strengthen and sustain our nation's museums.

Sincerely,



Kirsten E. Gillibrand  
United States Senator



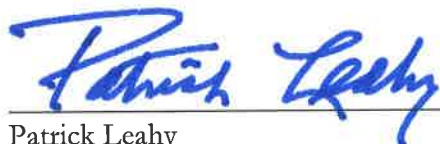
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Debbie Stabenow  
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Christopher Coons  
United States Senator



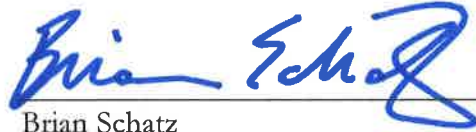
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United States Senator



Martin Heinrich  
United States Senator



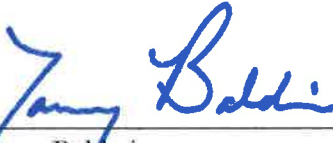
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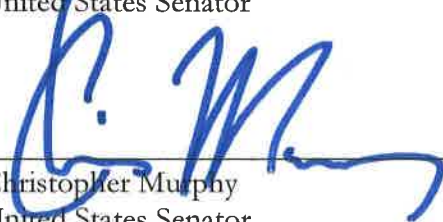
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United States Senator