

## FY 2020 HOUSE appropriations letter in support of the IMLS Office of Museum Services

Dear Chairwoman DeLauro and Ranking Member Cole,

We write to thank the Subcommittee for its previous support, and to urge you to support robust funding for the Institute of Museum and Library Services' (IMLS) Office of Museum Services (OMS) in the FY 2020 Labor, Health and Human Services and Education Appropriations bill.

Despite its small size, the IMLS Office of Museum Services is the largest dedicated source of investment in our nation's museums, which support over 700,000 jobs and contribute \$50 billion annually to the U.S. economy. OMS funding plays a significant role in this economic impact by helping museums reach more visitors and spur community development. In addition to their economic benefits, OMS grants also support museums' advancements in areas such as technology, lifelong community learning, and conservation and preservation. These successes notwithstanding, only a small fraction of the nation's museums are currently being reached and many highly rated grant applications go unfunded.

The demand for museum services is greater than ever. At a time when school and community resources are strained, museums are working overtime to fill the gaps. Every year, they welcome more than 55 million schoolchildren, bring art, science and cultural heritage into communities, and partner with other nonprofits to meet the specific needs of their local population. In addition, 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 helping veterans heal physically and psychologically, and from creating energy efficient public buildings to collecting food for needy families.

Congress reauthorized IMLS in late 2018, by enacting the Museum and Library Services Act of 2018 (Public Law No: 115-410). This legislation was passed with widespread bipartisan support by unanimous consent in the Senate and by a vote of 331 to 28 in the House, showing Congress' renewed bipartisan support for the agency's programs and a renewed commitment to its funding. The agency is highly accountable, and its competitive, peer-reviewed grants leverage significant private resources while supporting museums in every state.

We urge the Subcommittee to support robust funding for the IMLS Office of Museum Services for FY 2020 to support the important work museums are doing in our districts. This vital funding will aid museums of all types and enable them to continue bolstering the economy, serving our schools and communities, 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 the work of our nation's museums.

Sincerely,

Paul Tonko  
U.S. Representative

Andy Barr  
U.S. Representative

Chellie Pingree  
U.S. Representative

David B. McKinley, P.E.  
U.S. Representative

For your reference, the following page lists the **178 Representatives who signed on to this letter last year**, led by Representatives Tonko (D-NY), Barr (R-KY), Pingree (D-ME), and McKinley (R-WV). This may be an indication that they will be willing to sign the FY 2021 letter this year.

Don Young (R-AK)	Ted S. Yoho, DVM (R-FL)	Daniel Kildee (D-MI)	Steve Stivers (R-OH)
Ruben Gallego (D-AZ)	Sanford D. Bishop, Jr. (D-GA)	Elissa Slotkin (D-MI)	Michael R. Turner (R-OH)
Raul Grijalva (D-AZ)	Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr. (D-GA)	Haley M. Stevens (D-MI)	Earl Blumenauer (D-OR)
Tom O'Halleran (D-AZ)	John Lewis (D-GA)	Angie Craig (D-MN)	Suzanne Bonamici (D-OR)
Karen Bass (D-CA)	Lucy McBath (D-GA)	Collin C. Peterson (D-MN)	Peter A. DeFazio (D-OR)
Julia Brownley (D-CA)	David Scott (D-GA)	Wm. Lacy Clay (D-MO)	Brendan F. Boyle (D-PA)
Salud Carbajal (D-CA)	Tulsi Gabbard (D-HI)	Emanuel Cleaver, II (D-MO)	Mike Doyle (D-PA)
Tony Cardenas (D-CA)	Abby Finkenauer (D-IA)	Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan (I-MP)	Dwight Evans (D-PA)
Judy Chu (D-CA)	Dave Loebsack (D-IA)	Alma S. Adams, Ph.D. (D-NC)	Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA)
Gilbert R. Cisneros (D-CA)	Cheri Bustos (D-IL)	G.K. Butterfield (D-NC)	Conor Lamb (D-PA)
J. Luis Correa (D-CA)	Sean Casten (D-IL)	Ann McLane Kuster (D-NH)	Glenn "GT" Thompson (R-PA)
Susan A. Davis (D-CA)	Rodney Davis (R-IL)	Chris Pappas (D-NH)	Jennifer Gonzalez-Colon (R-PR)
Mark DeSaulnier (D-CA)	Danny K. Davis (D-IL)	Josh Gottheimer (D-NJ)	David N. Cicilline (D-RI)
Anna G. Eshoo (D-CA)	Bill Foster (D-IL)	Andy Kim (D-NJ)	James R. Langevin (D-RI)
John Garamendi (D-CA)	Jesus Chuy Garcia (D-IL)	Tom Malinowski (D-NJ)	Joe Wilson (R-SC)
Jimmy Gomez (D-CA)	Robin L. Kelly (D-IL)	Donald Norcross (D-NJ)	Steve Cohen (D-TN)
Jared Huffman (D-CA)	Raja Krishnamoorthi (D-IL)	Frank Pallone, Jr. (D-NJ)	Jim Cooper (D-TN)
Barbara Lee (D-CA)	Daniel W. Lipinski (D-IL)	Bill Pascrell, Jr. (D-NJ)	Colin Allred (D-TX)
Ted W. Lieu (D-CA)	Mike Quigley (D-IL)	Donald M. Payne, Jr. (D-NJ)	Lloyd Doggett (D-TX)
Zoe Lofgren (D-CA)	Bobby L. Rush (D-IL)	Mikie Sherrill (D-NJ)	Vicente Gonzalez (D-TX)
Alan Lowenthal (D-CA)	Jan Schakowsky (D-IL)	Albio Sires (D-NJ)	Al Green (D-TX)
Doris Matsui (D-CA)	Bradley S. Schneider (D-IL)	Jeff Van Drew (D-NJ)	Sheila Jackson Lee (D-TX)
Jerry McNerney (D-CA)	Andre Carson (D-IN)	Ben Ray Lujan (D-NM)	Eddie Bernice Johnson (D-TX)
Jimmy Panetta (D-CA)	Sharice Davids (D-KS)	Dina Titus (D-NV)	Mark Veasey (D-TX)
Scott H. Peters (D-CA)	<b>Andy Barr (R-KY)</b>	Yvette D. Clarke (D-NY)	Filemon Vela (D-TX)
Linda T. Sanchez (D-CA)	Brett Guthrie (R-KY)	<del>Chris Collins (R-NY)</del>	Ben McAdams (D-UT)
Adam B. Schiff (D-CA)	John Yarmuth (D-KY)	Antonio Delgado (D-NY)	Donald S. Beyer, Jr. (D-VA)
Jackie Speier (D-CA)	Cedric L. Richmond (D-LA)	Eliot L. Engel (D-NY)	Gerald E. Connolly (D-VA)
Eric Swalwell (D-CA)	William R. Keating (D-MA)	Adriano Espaillat (D-NY)	A. Donald McEachin (D-VA)
Mark Takano (D-CA)	Joe Kennedy (D-MA)	Brian Higgins (D-NY)	Denver Riggleman (D-VA)
Mike Thompson (D-CA)	Stephen F. Lynch (D-MA)	Hakeem Jeffries (D-NY)	Abigail D. Spanberger (D-VA)
Jason Crow (D-CO)	James P. McGovern (D-MA)	John Katko (R-NY)	Jennifer Wexton (D-VA)
Diana DeGette (D-CO)	Seth Moulton (D-MA)	Carolyn B. Maloney (D-NY)	Stacey E. Plaskett (D-VI)
Doug Lamborn (R-CO)	Richard E. Neal (D-MA)	Joseph D. Morelle (D-NY)	Peter Welch (D-VT)
Ed Perlmutter (D-CO)	Ayanna Pressley (D-MA)	Jerrold Nadler (D-NY)	Suzan DelBene (D-WA)
Scott Tipton (R-CO)	Lori Trahan (D-MA)	Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D-NY)	Denny Heck (D-WA)
Joe Courtney (D-CT)	Anthony G. Brown (D-MD)	Kathleen M. Rice (D-NY)	Pramila Jayapal (D-WA)
Jahana Hayes (D-CT)	Jamie Raskin (D-MD)	Elise M. Stefanik (R-NY)	Kim Schrier, M.D. (D-WA)
Jim Himes (D-CT)	C.A. Dutch Ruppersberger (D-MD)	Thomas R. Suozzi (D-NY)	Adam Smith (D-WA)
John B. Larson (D-CT)	John P. Sarbanes (D-MD)	<b>Paul D. Tonko (D-NY)</b>	Ron Kind (D-WI)
Eleanor H. Norton (D-DC)	David Trone (D-MD)	Nydia M. Velazquez (D-NY)	Gwen Moore (D-WI)
Lisa Blunt Rochester (D-DE)	Jared Golden (D-ME)	Joyce Beatty (D-OH)	<b>David B. McKinley, P.E. (R-WV)</b>
Kathy Castor (D-FL)	<b>Chellie Pingree (D-ME)</b>	Marcia L. Fudge (D-OH)	Alex X. Mooney (R-WV)
Ted Deutch (D-FL)	Debbie Dingell (D-MI)	Anthony Gonzalez (R-OH)	
Al Lawson, Jr. (D-FL)			
Stephanie Murphy (D-FL)			
Darren Soto (D-FL)			

\*The Alliance is also aware that some legislators send their own letter in support of the Office of Museum Services, or include OMS on a letter listing their priorities to the Appropriations Committee. Those efforts are often due directly to advocate outreach to those offices. These individual letters also help our cause and are worthy of thanks on social media! These legislators included Representatives ~~Sean Duffy (R-WI)~~ and Lucille Roybal-Allard (D-CA).

~~Strikethrough~~ indicates no longer in office.

FY 2020 **SENATE** appropriations letter in support of the IMLS Office of Museum Services

Dear Chairman Blunt and Ranking Member Murray:

We write to thank the Subcommittee for its previous support, and to urge you to support robust funding for the Institute of Museum and Library Services' (IMLS) Office of Museum Services (OMS) in the fiscal year (FY) 2020 Labor, Health and Human Services and Education Appropriations bill.

Despite its small size, the IMLS Office of Museum Services is the largest dedicated source of investment in our nation's museums, which support over 700,000 jobs and contribute \$50 billion to the U.S. economy each year. OMS funding plays a significant role in this economic impact by helping museums reach more visitors and spur community development. In addition to their economic benefits, OMS grants also support museums' advancements in areas such as technology, lifelong community learning, and conservation and preservation. These successes notwithstanding, only a small fraction of the nation's museums are currently being reached and many highly rated grant applications go unfunded.

The demand for museum services is greater than ever. At a time when school and community resources are strained, museums are working overtime to fill the gaps. Every year, they welcome more than 55 million schoolchildren, bring art, science and cultural heritage into communities, and partner with other nonprofits to meet the specific needs of their local population. In addition, 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. Many museums have developed innovative programs to meet the growing needs of their individual communities. For example, some museums have programs designed specifically for children with special needs and their families, some work with medical schools to teach observation and description skills, and some are helping veterans heal from their wounds, both physical and psychological.

Congress reauthorized IMLS at the end of last year, by enacting the Museum and Library Services Act of 2018 (P.L. 115-410). This legislation was adopted with widespread bipartisan support by unanimous consent in the Senate and by a vote of 331 to 28 in the House, showing Congress' renewed bipartisan support for the agency's programs and a renewed commitment to its funding. The agency is highly accountable, and its competitive, peer-reviewed grants leverage significant private resources while supporting museums in every state.

We urge the Subcommittee to support robust funding for the IMLS Office of Museum Services for FY 2020 to support the important work museums are doing in our states. This vital funding will aid museums of all types and enable them to continue bolstering the economy, serving our schools and communities, 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 the work of our nation's museums.

Sincerely,

Kirsten Gillibrand  
U.S. Senator

Susan M. Collins  
U.S. Senator

For your reference, here is the list of the **41 Senators who signed on to this letter last year**, led by Senators Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY) and Susan Collins (R-ME). This may be an indication that they will be willing to sign the FY 2021 letter this year.

Kyrsten Sinema (D-AZ)  
Diane Feinstein (D-CA)  
Kamala D. Harris (D-CA)  
Richard Blumenthal (D-CT)  
Chris Murphy (D-CT)  
Thomas R. Carper (D-DE)  
Christopher A. Coons (D-DE)  
Brian Schatz (D-HI)  
Mazie Hirono (D-HI)  
Tammy Duckworth (D-IL)  
Richard J. Durbin (D-IL)  
Edward J. Markey (D-MA)  
Elizabeth Warren (D-MA)  
Benjamin L. Cardin (D-MD)  
Chris Van Hollen (D-MD)  
**Susan M. Collins (R-ME)**  
Angus S. King, Jr. (I-ME)  
Gary C. Peters (D-MI)  
Debbie Stabenow (D-MI)  
Amy Klobuchar (D-MN)  
Tina Smith (D-MN)  
John Tester (D-MT)  
Margaret Wood Hassan (D-NH)  
Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH)  
Cory A. Booker (D-NJ)  
Robert Menendez (D-NJ)  
Martin Heinrich (D-NM)  
Catherine Cortez Masto (D-NV)  
Jacky Rosen (D-NV)  
**Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY)**  
Sherrod Brown (D-OH)  
Jeff Merkley (D-OR)  
Ron Wyden (D-OR)  
Robert P. Casey, Jr. (D-PA)  
Jack Reed (D-RI)  
Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI)  
Tim Kaine (D-VA)  
Bernard Sanders (I-VT)  
Maria Cantwell (D-WA)  
Tammy Baldwin (D-WI)  
Joe Manchin III (D-WV)