Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

April 2, 2025

The Honorable Donald J. Trump
President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Trump,

We write to express our deep concern over the proposed elimination of the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) and the devastating impact such cuts would have on communities throughout the country. [1]

The IMLS is the only federal agency dedicated to supporting America's museums and libraries. Operating in all 50 states and U.S. territories, it plays a vital role in strengthening these institutions which serve as essential educational, cultural, and economic pillars in our communities. From early literacy programs and STEM education initiatives to high-speed internet access and job training resources, funding for the IMLS enables libraries and museums to provide critical services to millions of Americans. The loss of this funding would be particularly devastating for rural, tribal, and other underserved communities that rely heavily on these institutions for access to learning resources, workforce development, and technological infrastructure.

Beyond their valuable contributions to education and social development, museums and libraries also serve as significant economic drivers. The American Alliance of Museums reports that museums alone contribute more than $50 billion to the U.S. economy each year and support over 726,000 jobs. Museums have immense power to draw tourism and foot traffic to other local businesses and revitalize communities. For every $1 that museums and other nonprofit cultural organizations receive in government funding, they return more than $5 in tax revenue. They also have broad public support, with 96% of Americans wanting to maintain or increase federal funding for museums. [2] Libraries similarly generate economic returns through workforce training programs, small business support, and research services. Nearly all of the approximately 17,000 public libraries across the nation offer Wi-Fi access at no charge, and in 2019, Americans accessed the Internet using library computers close to 224 million times.[3] This includes millions of students who lack adequate broadband access at home and rely on libraries to complete their homework.[4] Despite this, IMLS funding accounts for a mere 0.0046% of the federal budget, an incredibly modest investment relative to the immense benefits these institutions provide.

Eliminating the IMLS would not only jeopardize these essential services but also dismiss the everyday needs of millions of Americans who rely on libraries and museums for learning, job opportunities, and community engagement. We urge the Administration to reconsider this decision and recognize the far-reaching impact of IMLS funding. Maintaining and strengthening federal support for museums and libraries is not just an investment in cultural preservation, it is an investment in education, innovation, and economic growth.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. We look forward to working with you to ensure that America's libraries and museums continue to thrive and serve the public.

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[1] https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/03/continuing-the-reduction-of-the-federal-bureaucracy/
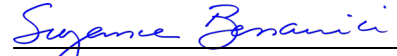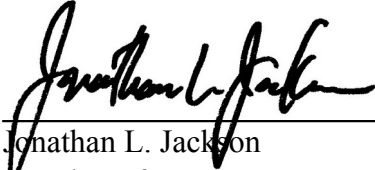[2] https://www.aam-us.org/programs/about-museums/museum-facts-data/
[3] https://www.imls.gov/research-evaluation/surveys/public-libraries-survey-pls
[4] https://www.imls.gov/our-work/priority-areas/workforce-development

Sincerely,

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Dina Titus
Member of Congress

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Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress

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Jonathan L. Jackson
Member of Congress

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Eleanor Holmes Norton
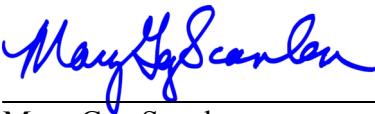Member of Congress

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Emanuel Cleaver, II
Member of Congress

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André Carson
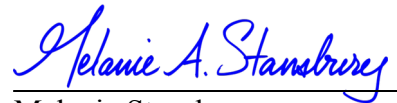Member of Congress

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Gwen S. Moore
Member of Congress

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Seth Moulton
Member of Congress

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Mary Gay Scanlon
Member of Congress

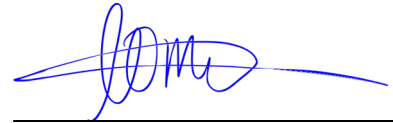_____
Melanie Stansbury
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Greg Landsman
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Steve Cohen
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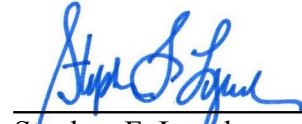
James P. McGovern
Member of Congress

Ilhan Omar
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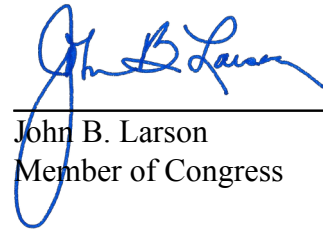
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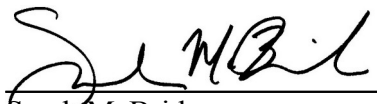
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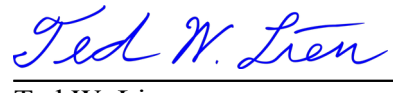
Valerie P. Foushee
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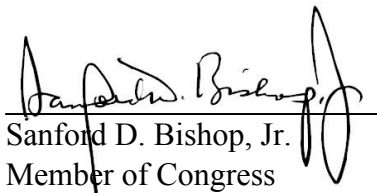
John B. Larson
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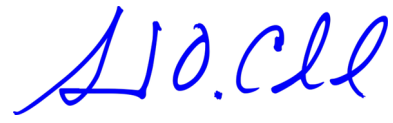
Sarah McBride
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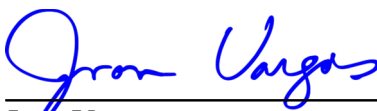
Ted W. Lieu
Member of Congress
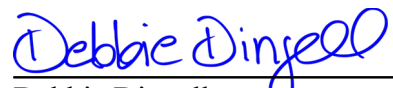
Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.
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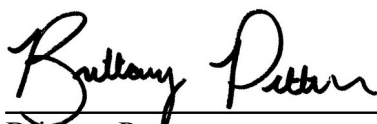
Salud Carbajal
Member of Congress

Juan Vargas
Member of Congress

Debbie Dingell
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Brittany Pettersen
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Frank Pallone, Jr.
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Marilyn Strickland
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Dwight Evans
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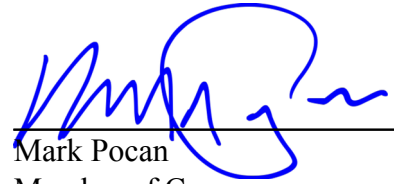
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Kevin Mullin
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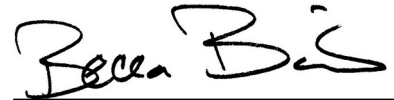
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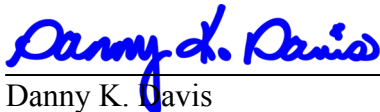
Mark Pocan
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Greg Stanton
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Becca Balint
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Danny K. Davis
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Rick Larsen
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Ayanna Pressley
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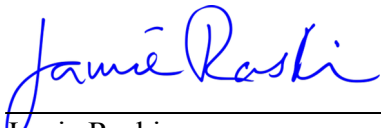
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Scott H. Peters
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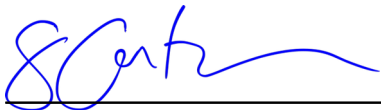
Lucy McBath
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Jamie Raskin
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Maxine Dexter
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Seth Magaziner
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Val Hoyle
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Sean Casten
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Adam Smith
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Chris Deluzio
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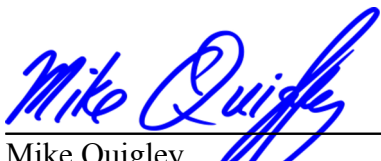
Andrea Salinas
Member of Congress

Kim Schrier, M.D.
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Joe Courtney
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Brendan F. Boyle
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Delia C. Ramirez
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April McClain Delaney
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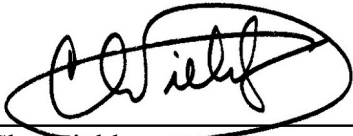
Mike Quigley
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Chellie Pingree
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LaMonica McIver
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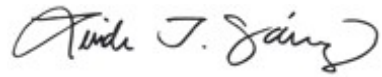
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Joaquin Castro
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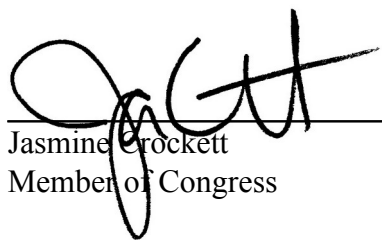
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Lloyd Doggett
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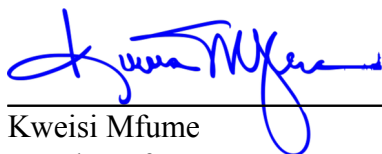
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Jill Tokuda
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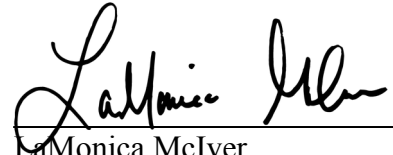
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Richard E. Neal
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Jasmine Crockett
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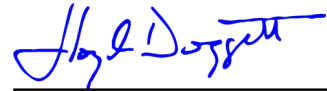
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Gabe Amo
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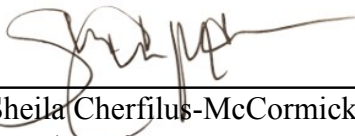
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Suhas Subramanyam
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Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick
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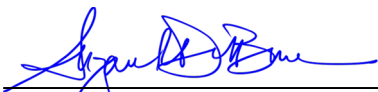
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Bill Foster
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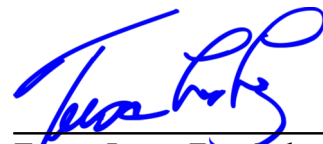
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Rashida Tlaib
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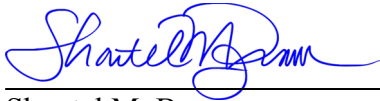
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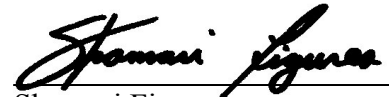
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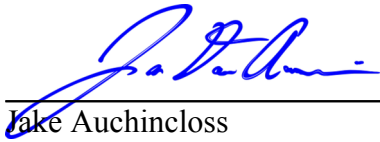
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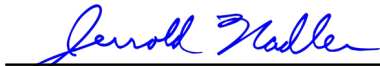
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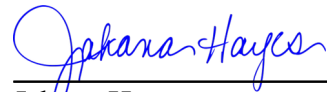
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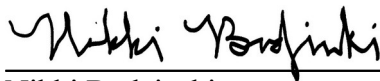
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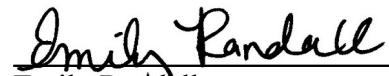
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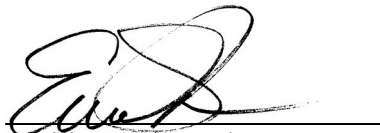
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Nikki Budzinski
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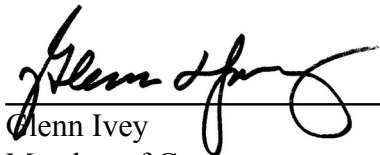
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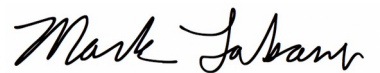
Emilia Strong Sykes
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Haley M. Stevens
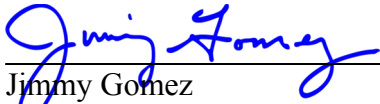Member of Congress

Glenn Ivey
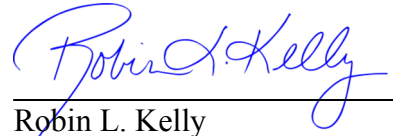Member of Congress

Julia Brownley
Member of Congress

MARK TAKANO
Member of Congress

Laura Friedman
Member of Congress

Jimmy Gomez
Member of Congress

Summer L. Lee
Member of Congress

Bennie G. Thompson
Member of Congress

Wesley Bell
Member of Congress

William R. Keating
Member of Congress

Robert Garcia
Member of Congress

Deborah K. Ross
Member of Congress

Robin L. Kelly
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Chrissy Houlahan
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Mark DeSaulnier
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Judy Chu
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Lois Frankel
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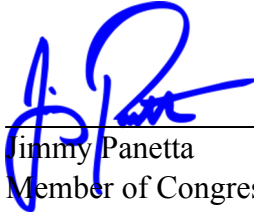
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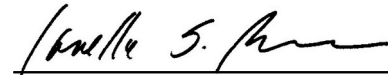
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Jimmy Panetta
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George Whitesides
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Lauren Underwood
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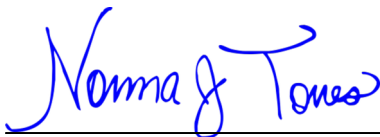
Marc A. Veasey
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Jim Himes
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Donald G. Davis
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George Latimer
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Norma J. Torres
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Raja Krishnamoorthi
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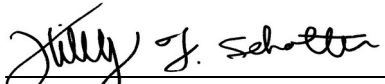
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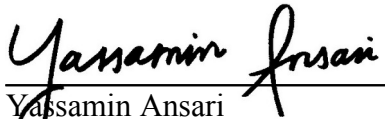
Josh Gottheimer
Member of Congress

Nydia M. Velázquez
Member of Congress

Betty McCollum
Member of Congress

Hillary J. Scholten
Member of Congress

Dave Min
Member of Congress

Yassamin Ansari
Member of Congress