

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

March 27, 2025

The Honorable President Donald J. Trump  
President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20500

The Honorable Russell Vought  
Director of the Office of Management and Budget  
Eisenhower Executive Office Building  
1650 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20503

Mr. Vince Haley  
Director of the Domestic Policy Council  
Eisenhower Executive Office Building  
1650 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20503

Mr. Alex Meyer  
Director of the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs  
Eisenhower Executive Office Building  
1650 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20503

Dear President Trump, Director Vought, Director Haley, and Director Meyer:

We write with dismay at your attempt to eliminate the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) “to the maximum extent consistent with applicable law.” We urge you to immediately reverse your March 14 Executive Order regarding IMLS and implement all Congressionally appropriated funds for IMLS and its entities.

No agency authorized by Congress can be dismantled without another act of Congress. IMLS was established by an act of Congress in 1996. During your first term, you also signed the Museum and Library Services Act of 2018 into law, the third reauthorization of IMLS. That piece of legislation passed Congress with overwhelming bipartisan support — unanimous consent in the Senate and by a vote of 331 to 28 in the House of Representatives. In addition, the FY2025 Continuing Resolution, which you signed into law on March 15, funds IMLS at FY2024 levels.

IMLS makes up less than 0.005% of the overall federal budget, but serves as the only federal agency dedicated to supporting museums and libraries nationwide, investing in beloved community institutions that serve as cornerstones of public education, engines of local economies, and hubs for technical support and expertise. Across the country, museums host approximately 55 million visits from students and contribute \$50 billion to our economy annually.<sup>1</sup> Our country is also home to 125,000 public, school, academic, and special libraries that support more than 1.2 billion in-person visits every year, and countless more virtual visits.<sup>2</sup>

The Granite State received more than \$1.5 million from IMLS in FY2024 alone, with the money going to statewide initiatives including an interlibrary loan system, the creation of a digital library, and literacy projects like the Summer Reading Program.<sup>3</sup>

From the Museum of the White Mountains to the Currier Museum of Art, New Hampshire’s museums are educational assets that make world-class exhibits accessible to students and families. They also power our local

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<sup>1</sup> [American Alliance of Museums, “Museum Facts & Data.”](#)

<sup>2</sup> [American Library Association, “ALA statement on White House assault on the Institute of Museum and Library Services.”](#)

<sup>3</sup> [Institute of Museum and Library Services, “New Hampshire State Profile.”](#)

economies: The American Alliance of Museums and Oxford Economics estimate that museums supported 3,574 jobs and contributed \$265 million to our state’s economy in 2017.<sup>4</sup>

Likewise, New Hampshire public libraries saw more than 4,190,000 visits in 2023.<sup>5</sup> Parents, students, teachers, veterans, job seekers, seniors, and blind or visually impaired readers rely on libraries and their dedicated staff for everything from educational programming and interlibrary loan services to technical assistance and public internet. Ultimately, shuttering IMLS will have an outsized effect on rural communities, where museums and libraries rely most heavily on federal funding.

Accordingly, we ask that you promptly respond to the following questions:

- In concrete and specific terms, what does “eliminated to the maximum extent consistent with applicable law” mean for IMLS?
- How will IMLS ensure that the funds Congress appropriated for IMLS in the most recent Continuing Resolution are distributed to grantees in a timely and appropriate manner?
- How many IMLS staff members have been terminated or placed on administrative leave as a result of your March 14 Executive Order?
- Who will serve as a primary point of contact for states and grantees if they experience disruptions as a result of your Executive Order?

American support for IMLS transcends party lines. We urge you to focus on supporting museums and libraries and reconsider your Executive Order that would strip educational, economic, and technical assistance opportunities from our constituents.

Sincerely,



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Jeanne Shaheen  
United States Senator



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Margaret Wood Hassan  
United States Senator



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Maggie Goodlander  
Member of Congress



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Chris Pappas  
Member of Congress

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<sup>4</sup> [New Hampshire Business Review, “Study: New Hampshire museums have a \\$265 million economic impact.”](#)

<sup>5</sup> [New Hampshire State Library, “Library Statistics.”](#)