

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.

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/>

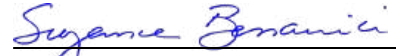
³ <https://www.imls.gov/research-evaluation/surveys/public-libraries-survey-pls>

⁴ <https://www.imls.gov/our-work/priority-areas/workforce-development>

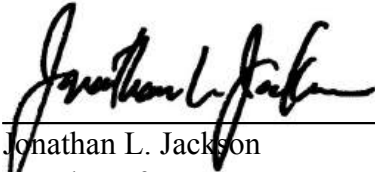
Sincerely,



Dina Titus
Member of Congress



Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress



Jonathan L. Jackson
Member of Congress



Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress



Emanuel Cleaver, II
Member of Congress



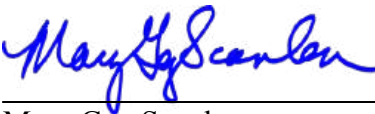
André Carson
Member of Congress



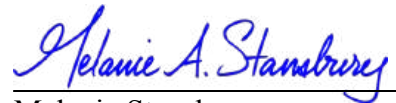
Gwen S. Moore
Member of Congress



Seth Moulton
Member of Congress



Mary Gay Scanlon
Member of Congress



Melanie Stansbury
Member of Congress



Greg Landsman
Member of Congress



Steve Cohen
Member of Congress



James P. McGovern
Member of Congress



Ilhan Omar
Member of Congress



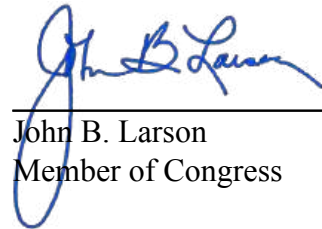
Bonnie Watson Coleman
Member of Congress



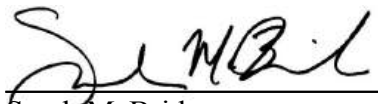
Stephen F. Lynch
Member of Congress



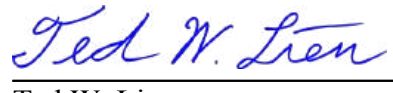
Valerie P. Foushee
Member of Congress



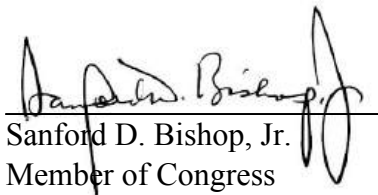
John B. Larson
Member of Congress



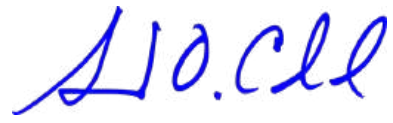
Sarah McBride
Member of Congress



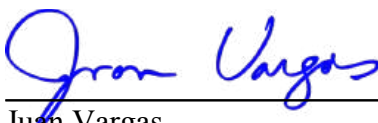
Ted W. Lieu
Member of Congress



Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.
Member of Congress



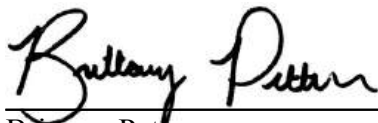
Salud Carbajal
Member of Congress



Juan Vargas
Member of Congress



Debbie Dingell
Member of Congress



Brittany Pettersen
Member of Congress



Frank Pallone, Jr.
Member of Congress



Marilyn Strickland
Member of Congress



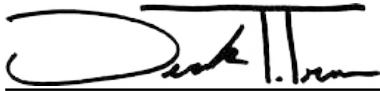
Dwight Evans
Member of Congress



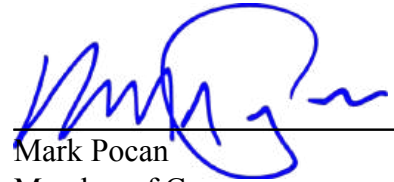
Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress




Kevin Mullin
Member of Congress



Derek T. Tran
Member of Congress



Mark Pocan
Member of Congress



Greg Stanton
Member of Congress



Becca Balint
Member of Congress



Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress



Rick Larsen
Member of Congress



Ayanna Pressley
Member of Congress



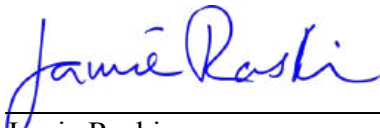
Jared Huffman
Member of Congress



Scott H. Peters
Member of Congress



Lucy McBath
Member of Congress



Jamie Raskin
Member of Congress



Maxine Dexter
Member of Congress



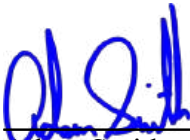
Seth Magaziner
Member of Congress



Val Hoyle
Member of Congress



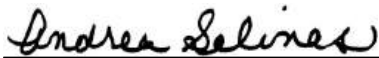
Sean Casten
Member of Congress



Adam Smith
Member of Congress



Chris Deluzio
Member of Congress



Andrea Salinas
Member of Congress



Kim Schrier, M.D.
Member of Congress



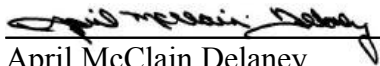
Joe Courtney
Member of Congress



Brendan F. Boyle
Member of Congress



Delia C. Ramirez
Member of Congress



April McClain Delaney
Member of Congress



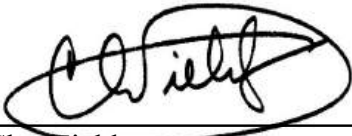
Mike Quigley
Member of Congress



Chellie Pingree
Member of Congress



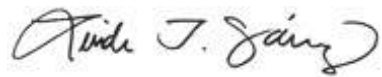
Lori Trahan
Member of Congress



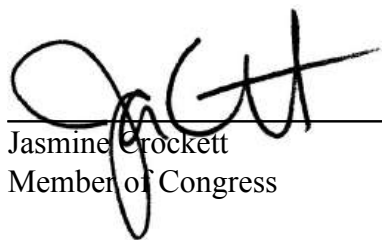
Cleo Fields
Member of Congress



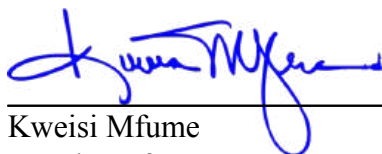
Paul D. Tonko
Member of Congress



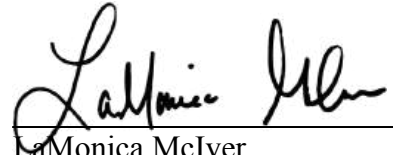
Linda T. Sánchez
Member of Congress



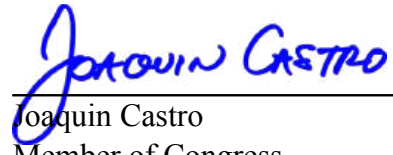
Jasmine Crockett
Member of Congress



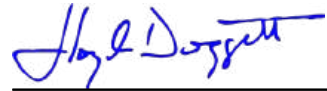
Kweisi Mfume
Member of Congress



LaMonica McIver
Member of Congress



Joaquin Castro
Member of Congress



Lloyd Doggett
Member of Congress



Jim Tokuda
Member of Congress



Richard E. Neal
Member of Congress



Ritchie Torres
Member of Congress



Gabe Amo
Member of Congress



Robert J. Menendez
Member of Congress



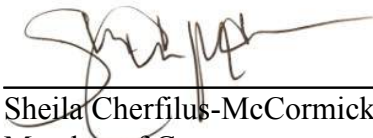
Shri Thanedar
Member of Congress



Suhas Subramanyam
Member of Congress



Troy A. Carter, Sr.
Member of Congress



Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick
Member of Congress



Mike Thompson
Member of Congress



Diana DeGette
Member of Congress



Bill Foster
Member of Congress



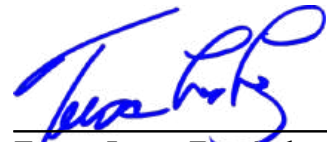
Suzan K. DelBene
Member of Congress



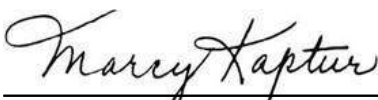
Rashida Tlaib
Member of Congress



Pramila Jayapal
Member of Congress



Teresa Leger Fernandez
Member of Congress



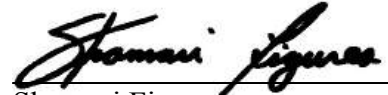
Marcy Kaptur
Member of Congress



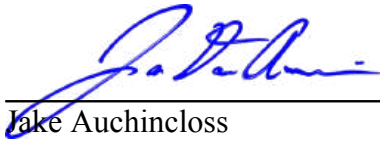
Thomas R. Suozzi
Member of Congress



Shontel M. Brown
Member of Congress



Shomari Figures
Member of Congress



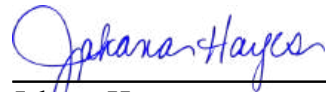
Jake Auchincloss
Member of Congress



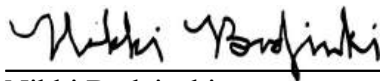
Veronica Escobar
Member of Congress



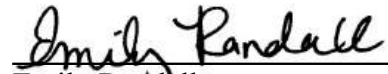
Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress



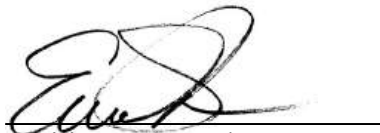
Jahana Hayes
Member of Congress




Nikki Budzinski
Member of Congress



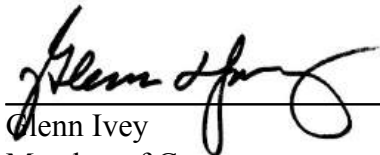
Emily Randall
Member of Congress



Emilia Strong Sykes
Member of Congress




Haley M. Stevens
Member of Congress




Glenn Ivey
Member of Congress



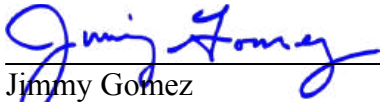
Julia Brownley
Member of Congress



MARK TAKANO
Member of Congress



Laura Friedman
Member of Congress



Jimmy Gomez
Member of Congress



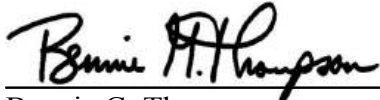
Robin L. Kelly
Member of Congress



Summer L. Lee
Member of Congress



Chrissy Houlahan
Member of Congress



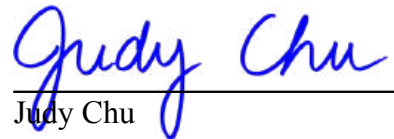
Bennie G. Thompson
Member of Congress



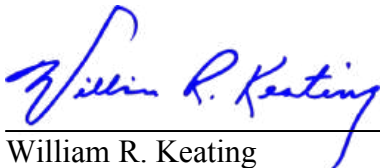
Mark DeSaulnier
Member of Congress



Wesley Bell
Member of Congress



Judy Chu
Member of Congress



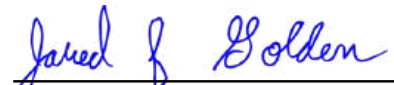
William R. Keating
Member of Congress



Lois Frankel
Member of Congress



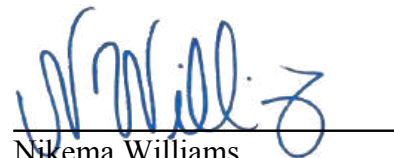
Robert Garcia
Member of Congress




Jared Golden
Member of Congress



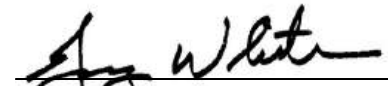
Deborah K. Ross
Member of Congress



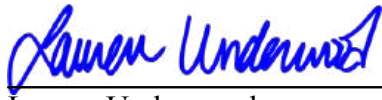
Nikema Williams
Member of Congress



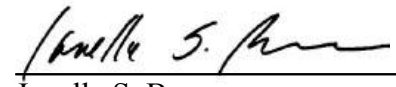
Jimmy Panetta
Member of Congress



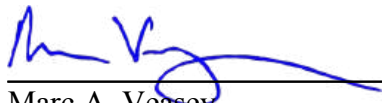
George Whitesides
Member of Congress



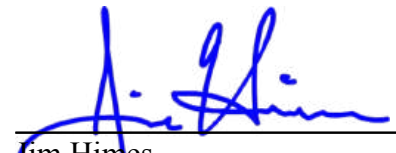
Lauren Underwood
Member of Congress




Janelle S. Bynum
Member of Congress



Marc A. Veasey
Member of Congress



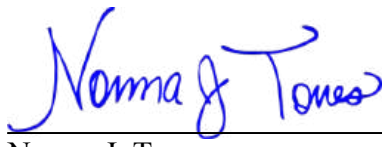
Jim Himes
Member of Congress



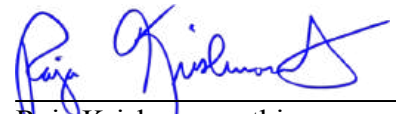
Donald G. Davis
Member of Congress



George Latimer
Member of Congress



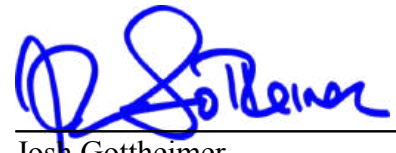
Norma J. Torres
Member of Congress



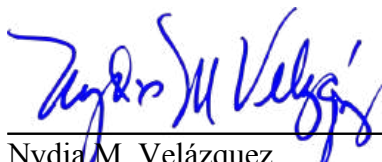
Raja Krishnamoorthi
Member of Congress



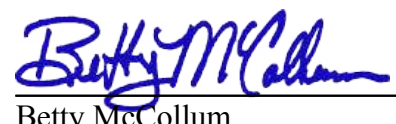
Joyce Beatty
Member of Congress



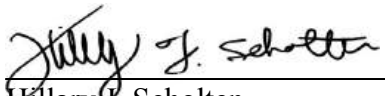
Josh Gottheimer
Member of Congress



Nydia M. Velázquez
Member of Congress



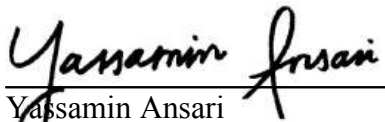
Betty McCollum
Member of Congress

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Hillary J. Scholten", written over a horizontal line.

Hillary J. Scholten
Member of Congress

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Dave Min", written over a horizontal line.

Dave Min
Member of Congress

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Yassamin Ansari", written over a horizontal line.

Yassamin Ansari
Member of Congress