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Yesterday

# American Library Association, AFSCME Challenge Trump Administration Gutting of Institute of Museum and Library Services

Source: **AFSCME**

For Immediate Release Tuesday, April 08, 2025

Washington, D.C. - The American Library Association (ALA), the largest library association in the world, and the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME), the largest union representing museum and library workers, are challenging the Trump administration's gutting of the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) – a non-partisan and independent agency dedicated to supporting and funding museums and libraries and the crucial community services they provide in every state across the country. The lawsuit, filed on behalf of ALA and AFSCME by Democracy Forward and co-counsel Gair Gallo Eberhard LLP, asks the court to block the dismantling of the IMLS as directed by a Trump executive order.

“Libraries play an important role in our democracy, from preserving history to providing access to government information, advancing literacy and civic engagement, and offering access to a variety of perspectives,” said American Library Association President Cindy Hohl. “These values are worth defending. We will not allow extremists to threaten our democracy by eliminating programs at IMLS and harming the children and communities who rely on libraries and the

services and opportunities they provide.”

“Libraries and museums contain our collective history and knowledge, while also providing safe spaces for learning, cultural expression and access to critical public resources,” said AFSCME President Lee Saunders. “They represent the heart of our communities, and the cultural workers who keep these institutions running enrich thousands of lives every day. Library workers do everything from helping people apply for jobs to administering lifesaving care all while facing increasing violence on the job. Their work deserves support, not cuts. On behalf of the 42,000 AFSCME cultural workers, we’re suing to stop the wrongful closure of the Institute of Museum and Library Services and protect this critical resource for our communities.”

IMLS was first created and funded by Congress in 1996 and charged with supporting America’s libraries and museums. The agency has had bipartisan support throughout its history, having been reauthorized under the Clinton, George W. Bush, Obama, and Trump administrations. IMLS is bound by laws requiring that the agency conduct certain activities to support libraries and report on important issues to Congress. The complaint argues that cutting programs at IMLS will violate the law by eliminating programs Congress has provided funding for and directed IMLS to undertake.

Read more: <https://www.afscme.org/press/releases/2025/american-library-association-afscme-challenge-trump-administration-gutting-of-institute-of-museum-and-library-services>

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Read the full complaint here: <https://democracyforward.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/001.-2025.04.07-ALA-v.-Sonderling-Complaint.pdf>

AFSCME's 1.4 million members provide the vital services that make America happen. With members in communities across the nation, serving in hundreds of different occupations – from nurses to corrections officers, child care providers to sanitation workers – AFSCME advocates for fairness in the workplace, excellence in public services and freedom and opportunity for all working families.

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**1. How can they do this?**

Why is nobody stopping them?

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**2. Our public libraries are treasures**

and one of the finest forms of democracy at work.  
I will do everything I can to protect and preserve libraries.

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Yesterday

### 3. Happy National Library Week (April 6-12)



**National Library Week** is an annual celebration highlighting the valuable role libraries and library professionals play in transforming lives and strengthening our communities.

<https://www.ala.org/conferenceevents/celebrationweeks/natlibraryweek>

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