

# News Roundup, Resources: Lawsuit Filed Over Cuts to IMLS, Federal Agencies

April 4, 2025 by [Gary Price](#)

*We will continue to add to this roundup as new material becomes available.*

**Last Update: 7:45am Eastern on Saturday, April 5, 2025**

From [Library Journal](#):

On Friday, April 4 attorneys general from 20 states filed a lawsuit against the Trump Administration to stop the elimination of the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) as well as the Minority Business Development Agency and the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service. The lawsuit states, “The sudden halting of the agencies’ work after decades of close cooperation will immediately put at risk hundreds of millions of dollars in grant funding on which the States depend, and undermine library programs, economic opportunity, and the free flow of commerce throughout the country.”

[Read the Complete Article](#)

More From [The Art Newspaper](#):

The lawsuit, filed Friday (4 April) by the top legal officers for states including California, Illinois, New York, Rhode Island, Wisconsin and more, comes after most of the agency’s employees were placed on administrative leave on March 31. The 85% reduction in staff followed Trump’s executive order naming the agency as one of several federal bodies to be “eliminated to the maximum extent of applicable law”.

“The Trump administration is once again violating the US Constitution and the rule of law by attempting to unilaterally shut down agencies the president doesn’t like, including agencies that give the public access to facts, knowledge, and cultural heritage for free or at low cost,” Rob Bonta, the attorney general of California, said in a statement. “Dismantling these agencies would have a devastating impact on the public and on states across the nation—they provide important services for Americans and collectively provide billions of dollars to states to support libraries and museums, innovation and entrepreneurship for disadvantaged businesses, and help resolve labor disputes.”

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF RHODE ISLAND	
STATE OF RHODE ISLAND; STATE OF NEW YORK; STATE OF HAWAII; STATE OF ARIZONA; STATE OF CALIFORNIA; STATE OF COLORADO; STATE OF CONNECTICUT; STATE OF DELAWARE; STATE OF ILLINOIS; STATE OF MAINE; STATE OF MARYLAND; COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS; PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN; STATE OF MINNESOTA; STATE OF NEVADA; STATE OF NEW JERSEY; STATE OF NEW MEXICO; STATE OF OREGON; STATE OF VERMONT; STATE OF WASHINGTON; STATE OF WISCONSIN;	Case No.: 1:25-cv-
Plaintiffs,	<b>COMPLAINT FOR DECLARATORY AND INJUNCTIVE RELIEF</b>
v.	<b>REQUEST FOR EMERGENCY TEMPORARY RESTRAINING ORDER UNDER FEDERAL RULE OF CIVIL PROCEDURE 65(B)</b>
DONALD J. TRUMP, in his official capacity as President of the United States; INSTITUTE OF MUSEUM AND LIBRARY SERVICES; KEITH E. SONDERLING, in his official capacity as Acting Director of the Institute of Museum and Library Services; MINORITY BUSINESS AND DEVELOPMENT AGENCY; MADIHA D. LATIF, in her official capacity as Deputy Under Secretary of Commerce for Minority Business Development; HOWARD LUTNICK, in his official capacity as Secretary of Commerce; FEDERAL MEDIATION AND CONCILIATION SERVICE; GREGORY GOLDSTEIN, in his official capacity as Acting Director of the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service; U.S. OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET; RUSSELL T. VOUGHT, in his official capacity as Director of the Office of Management and Budget;	
Defendants.	

Read the [Complete Article](#)

## Statements From Government, Organizations, & Others

- [Americans For the Arts](#)
- [EveryLibrary](#)
- [WI: Dept. of Public Instruction](#)

## Legal Filings (via RECAP/CourtListener)

- [Complaint](#)
- [Exhibit A: IMLS HR Letter](#)
- [Exhibit B: IMLS E-Mail](#)
- [Complete Docket \(and Additional Filings\)](#)

## Statements by Attorneys General (by State)

- [AZ](#)
- [CA](#)
- [CA #2](#)
- [CO](#)
- [CT](#)
- [IL](#)
- [MA](#)
- [ME](#)
- [MI](#)
- [NJ](#)
- [NY](#)
- [OR](#)
- [RI](#)
- [VT](#)
- [WA](#)
- [WI](#)

## Local Media Reports (by State)

- [AZ: Arizona AG Mayes Joins States to Sue Trump Over Nih, Library Funding \(via AZ Family\)](#)
- [CA: California Sues To Block Trump Effort To Shutter Federal Agencies, Including Key Museum Funder \(via SD U-T\)](#)
- [CT: AGs, Including Tong, Sue Trump Over Agency Closures via CT Mirror\)](#)
- [MI: Michigan AG Dana Nessel Joins Lawsuit Against Trump Administration to Protect Funding For Libraries \(via Click on Detroit\)](#)
- [ME: Maine Joins Another Lawsuit Against the Trump Administration \(via WMTW\)](#)
- [SD: State Library Faces Trump Threat to Federal Funding After Escaping the Noem Knife \(via SD Searchlight\)](#)
- [WI: Wisconsin Attorney General Sues Trump to Stop Dismantling Of Funding Supporting Libraries And Museums \(via Milwaukee Journal\)](#)

## National Media Reports

- [States Sue Over Trump Dismantling of Small Federal Agencies \(via Bloomberg News\)](#)

See Also: *InfoDOCKET* roundup of more than 50 statements by library, museum, arts, and other organizations [responding to the Executive Order Impacting The Institute Of Museum And Library Services \(IMLS\)](#).

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### About Gary Price

Gary Price ([gprice@gmail.com](mailto:gprice@gmail.com)) is a librarian, writer, consultant, and frequent conference speaker based in the Washington D.C. metro area. He earned his MLIS degree from Wayne State University in Detroit. Price has won several awards including the SLA Innovations in Technology Award and Alumnus of the Year from the Wayne St. University Library and Information Science Program. From 2006-2009 he was Director of Online Information Services at Ask.com.