



Josh Kaul
Wisconsin Attorney General

P.O. Box 7857
Madison, WI 53707-7857

NEWS FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 4, 2025

**Attorney General Kaul Sues Trump Administration to
Protect Libraries and Museums**

*AG Kaul Joins Coalition Suing to Stop Dismantling of Federal Agencies That
Support Libraries, Museums, Minority-Owned Businesses, and Workers*

MADISON, Wis. – Attorney General Josh Kaul today joined a coalition of 20 other attorneys general in suing the Trump administration to stop the dismantling of three federal agencies that provide services and funding supporting public libraries and museums, workers, and minority-owned businesses nationwide. In March, the Trump administration issued an Executive Order that would dismantle federal agencies created by Congress that collectively provide hundreds of millions of dollars for programs in every state. As a result of this Executive Order, the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) – one of the targeted agencies – has placed almost its entire staff on administrative leave and will cut hundreds of grants for state libraries and museums. The [lawsuit](#) filed by Attorney General Kaul and the coalition seeks to stop the targeted destruction of the IMLS and two other agencies targeted in the administration’s EO that millions of Americans rely on, especially those in underserved communities.

“Local libraries and small businesses are important parts of communities, no matter what the Trump administration seems to think,” said AG Kaul. “These cuts should be blocked so these agencies can return to providing the services they previously offered.”

Page 1 of 3

This Executive Order is another attempt to dismantle federal agencies in defiance of Congress. Attorney General Kaul and the coalition are seeking to stop the dismantling of three agencies targeted in the administration's Executive Order:

1. The Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), which supports museums and libraries nationwide through grantmaking, research, and policy development;
2. The Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA), which promotes the growth and inclusion of minority-owned businesses through federal financial assistance programs; and
3. The Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service (FMCS), which promotes peaceful resolution of labor disputes.

As Attorney General Kaul and the coalition assert in the lawsuit, dismantling these agencies will have significant effects on communities throughout Wisconsin and the nation that rely on them to provide important services to the public, including funding their libraries, promoting minority-owned businesses, and protecting workers' rights.

In 2024, IMLS invested \$180 million in libraries nationwide under its Grants to States Program. The administration's action will threaten hundreds of library staff across the country that provide essential services to their communities.

In addition, the Trump administration has cut the staff of MBDA from 40 to just five individuals and has effectively stopped issuing new grants, hurting vulnerable small businesses across the country. The FMCS has slashed its staff from roughly 200 to fewer than 15 individuals and announced the termination of several of its core programs, making it harder for unionized workers to secure their rights.

Attorney General Kaul and the coalition argue that the Executive Order violates the Constitution and the Administrative Procedure Act by eliminating the programs of agencies without any regard for the laws and regulations that govern each source of federal funding. The coalition argues that the president cannot decide to unilaterally override laws governing federal spending, and that this Executive Order unconstitutionally overrides Congress's power to decide how federal funds are spent.

Joining AG Kaul in filing today's lawsuit, which was led by the attorneys general of New York, Rhode Island, and Hawaii, were the attorneys general of Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Illinois, Maine, Maryland,

Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, Oregon, and Vermont.