

NEWS

States sue Trump Administration over move to eliminate Library, Museum Agency funding

BY [MESAN BYFIELD-WILLIAMS](#) • APRIL 8, 2025 8:00 AM PDT



STATES SUE TRUMP ADMINISTRATION OVER MOVE TO ELIMINATE LIBRARY, MUSEUM AGENCY FUNDING

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (Diya TV) — A coalition of 21 state attorneys general, led by California Attorney General Rob Bonta and Illinois Attorney General Kwame Raoul, has filed a lawsuit against the Trump administration for

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executive order that could strip millions in grant funding libraries, museums, minority-owned businesses, and wor mediation programs nationwide.

The lawsuit, filed during National Library Week, challenge Executive Order 14238 issued in March by former Preside Trump. The order, titled "Continuing the Reduction of the Bureaucracy," directs the closure of the IMLS, the Minorit Development Agency (MBDA), and the Federal Mediation Conciliation Service (FMCS), effectively freezing new grant placing staff on leave across all three agencies.

According to the Associated Press, the IMLS was created Congress in 1996 and currently provides over \$200 millio in federal grants. These funds support a wide range of lib museum services, including literacy programs, summer r initiatives, and specialized services for veterans and the v impaired.

California alone received \$15.7 million from IMLS's "Gran States Program" in 2024, supporting library staffing and p
X es. "Our libraries are hubs for learning, civic engage
c community," said California Attorney General Rob Bonta.
F
f , we sued the Trump Administration for unlawfully
c pting to shutter the Institute of Museum and Librar
—a federal agency that supports libraries across the nati

Governor Gavin Newsom echoed Bonta's concerns, callin
r "an attack on communities," noting that more than
t. nds allocated to California remain unpaid. "Librarie
m
o than just book depositories," Newsom said in a pre
e provide free meals for children, career developmer
and community programs that support everyone—from :
veterans."

In Illinois, Attorney General Raoul emphasized how the c
harm underserved communities. "Illegally cutting grants



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received \$5.7 million in IMLS funding in 2024, supporting urban and rural libraries.

The executive order has also impacted the MBDA, whose been reduced from 40 to just five employees, according t lawsuit. Similarly, the FMCS has seen its staff slashed for fewer than 15, limiting its ability to resolve labor disputes

Critics of the lawsuit argue the administration is within its constitutional rights to reshape the executive branch. "Ur Article II of the Constitution, the president is given ample in running the executive branch."

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