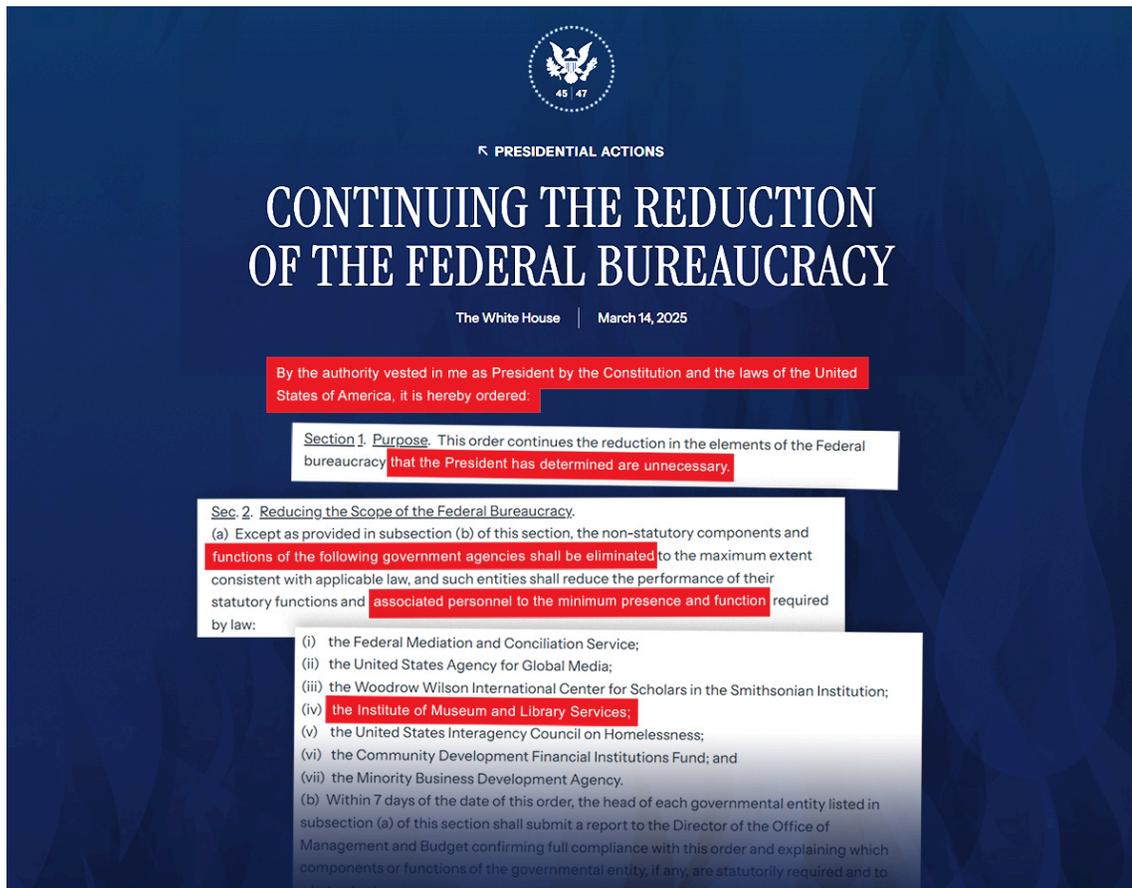


Latest Executive Orders Seeks to Eliminate the IMLS

by [SLJ Staff](#)

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The executive orders (EO) and slashing of federal services have come for the [Institute of Museum and Library Services \(IMLS\)](#).

On Friday night, President Trump issued a new EO, "[CONTINUING THE REDUCTION OF THE FEDERAL BUREAUCRACY](#)," stating that to reduce elements of federal bureaucracy that the president has deemed "unnecessary," the "non-statutory components and functions of the following governmental entities shall be eliminated to the maximum extent consistent with applicable law, and such entities shall reduce the performance of their statutory functions and associated personnel to the minimum presence and function required by law."

The IMLS was among the six agencies listed. In response to the attack on IMLS, the American Library Association released a statement:

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“By eliminating the only federal agency dedicated to funding library services, the Trump administration’s executive order is cutting off at the knees the most beloved and trusted of American institutions and the staff and services they offer:

- Early literacy development and grade-level reading programs
- Summer reading programs for kids
- High-speed internet access
- Employment assistance for job seekers
- Braille and talking books for people with visual impairments
- Homework and research resources for students and faculty
- Veterans’ telehealth spaces equipped with technology and staff support
- STEM programs, simulation equipment and training for workforce development
- Small business support for budding entrepreneurs

To dismiss some 75 committed workers and mission of an agency that advances opportunity and learning is to dismiss the aspirations and everyday needs of millions of Americans. And those who will feel that loss most keenly live in rural communities.”

EveryLibrary also responded, saying in part: “Without this core federal funding for state libraries, we risk losing critical library programs and services in every state.”

Both organizations are calling on Congress to step in and protect the funding and asking Americans to contact their legislators in support of the IMLS. EveryLibrary created a petition to sign and link for people to email their governors and state legislators.

The elimination of the agency would not only be a devastating and possibly fatal blow to state and local public libraries, the loss of the IMLS would negatively impact school libraries. School librarians use IMLS grant programs, such as the Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian Program, to provide better services and support for their students, in addition to other efforts. An IMLS grant is currently the funding source of an effort to return school librarians to Philadelphia's public schools.

On social media over the weekend, librarians and library advocates spoke out to share the ramifications of such an order.

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“The library and the post office are the only two systems we have that circulate things widely and to everyone, no matter who they are or what they believe,” former ALA president Emily Drabinski posted on Bluesky. “The library is the only one that, for now, is not forced to pay for itself at point of sale. Attacks on IMLS are attacks on every one of us.”

Read the full statements from ALA and EveryLibrary below.

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ALA statement on White House assault on the Institute of Museum and Library Services

WASHINGTON – An executive order issued by the Trump administration on Friday night, March 14, calls for the elimination of the Institute of Museum and Library Services, the nation’s only federal agency for America’s libraries. The following statement was made by the American Library Association:

Americans have loved and relied on public, school and academic libraries for generations. By eliminating the only federal agency dedicated to funding library services, the Trump administration’s executive order is cutting off at the knees the most beloved and trusted of American institutions and the staff and services they offer:

- Early literacy development and grade-level reading programs
- Summer reading programs for kids
- High-speed internet access
- Employment assistance for job seekers
- Braille and talking books for people with visual impairments
- Homework and research resources for students and faculty
- Veterans’ telehealth spaces equipped with technology and staff support
- STEM programs, simulation equipment and training for workforce development
- Small business support for budding entrepreneurs

To dismiss some 75 committed workers and mission of an agency that advances opportunity and learning is to dismiss the aspirations and everyday needs of millions of Americans. And those who will feel that loss most keenly live in rural communities.

As seedbeds of literacy and innovation, our nation’s 125,000 public, school, academic and special libraries deserve more, not less support. Libraries of all types translate 0.003% of the federal budget into programs and services used in more than 1.2 billion in-person patron visits every year, and many more virtual visits.

ALA implores President Trump to reconsider this short-sighted decision. We encourage U.S. Congressmembers, Senators and decision makers at every level of government to visit the libraries that serve their constituents and urge the White House to spare the modest federal funding for America’s libraries. And we call on all Americans who value reading, learning, and enrichment to reach out to their elected leaders and Show Up For Our Libraries at library

and school meetings, on the radio, and on every social media site to show your support for our libraries.

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The Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) is an independent federal agency that supports libraries and museums in all 50 states and U.S. territories through grantmaking, research and policy development. IMLS administers both federal grants to states, which determine how funds are spent, and discretionary grants to individual library entities.

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EveryLibrary Statement on Trump's Attack on Federal Funding for Libraries

"In a new executive order, President Trump has targeted the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), the federal agency charged with distributing congressionally approved funds to state libraries and to library, museum, and archives program grant recipients.

The Executive Order states that IMLS must be reduced to its "statutory functions." It also requires that "non-statutory components and functions ... shall be eliminated to the maximum extent..."

We are extremely concerned that the wording of this E.O. could result in cuts to the core functions of IMLS. The Administration and Elon Musk's Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) have used similar E.O.s to dismantle the other federal agencies.

IMLS's statutory obligations to state libraries include federal funding through the Grants to States program. This core work cannot be disrupted by DOGE.

Congress was clear in the 2018 **Museum and Library Services Act** that IMLS is statutorily required by Sec 9133 to send federal funding to state libraries under the Grants to States program (Sec. 9141).

Congress created this federal block grant program to support and extend library services in all the states through the state libraries. While other grant programs within IMLS are discretionary, the Grants to States program is written as a "shall".

This means that Congress enacted the Museum and Library Services Act to strengthen and support state libraries, including their vital work supporting interlibrary loans, statewide databases and collections, and systems of support to individual public, school, and academic libraries.

We are **calling on Congress** to help safeguard every one of their home district libraries by telling the administration to continue IMLS's Section 9141 guarantees to state libraries.

The states have consistently fulfilled their obligations under the law, and IMLS must continue its work as well. Likewise, other statutorily obliged programs, including the National Leadership Grants (Sec. 9162) and the Services for Native Americans Program (Sec. 9161), the National Foundation on the Arts and the Humanities (§9102), and IMLS's critical data collection and reporting role (Sec 9108) must continue. We believe that the Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian Program (Sec. 9165), the Museum Services Program (Sec. 9173), and the 21st Century Museum Professional Program (Sec 9175) should remain in place as Congress intended.

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Taken together, this federal and state ecosystem has served Americans for generations.

We need all Americans to join us in [telling Congress](#) to hold the line with the Administration and DOGE and keep these core programs, especially the Grants to States funding, intact.

Without this core federal funding for state libraries, we risk losing critical library programs and services in every state. This is the time to make your voice heard for libraries.

IMLS

Institute of Museums and Libraries

CONTINUING THE REDUCTION OF THE FEDERAL BUREAUCRACY

EveryLibrary

American Library Association



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Inaugural We Need Diverse Books Day Set For April 3 | News Bites

We Need Diverse Books will celebrate the first We Need Diverse Books Day on April 3; senators call on acting director of IMLS to continue funding programs as directed by Congress; Suzanne Collins talks philosophy and Sunrise on the Reaping; Eric Carle Honors honorees announced; and more.



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Students Speak Out Against Dismantling of Department of Education

[Kara Yorio](#)

Students Engaged in Advancing Texas, a grassroots youth advocacy organization, called a press conference with state legislators and the president of the Texas American Federation of Teachers to respond to President Trump's executive order and changes impacting the Department of Education and public school students across the country.

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