



DIANA LAMBERT



NEWS BRIEF

TUESDAY, APRIL 8, 2025 — 9:23 AM

California files suit to stop Trump administration attempt to cut library funding

California Attorney General Rob Bonta and state attorneys from 20 other states filed a lawsuit challenging the Trump administration's executive order to terminate grants to state libraries by attempting to close the agency that administers them, according to a media release from Gov. Gavin Newsom's office.

Along with the Institute of Museum and Library Services, the executive order would attempt to close several other agencies including the Minority Business Development Agency, the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service, the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness, the United States Agency for Global Media and the Community Development Institutions Fund.

The Institute of Museum and Library Services supports library and cultural programs across the country. In California, the grants paid for library staff and programs, including literacy and language tutoring and summer reading programs.

The California State Library expected \$15.7 million in federal funding this year – less than 40 cents per Californian, according to Bonta's office. Over 21 percent of that funding has yet to be sent to California.

“In California, we know libraries hold more than books. Libraries, and librarians, stand at the crossroads of opportunity and information, offering countless programs and supports for everyone in the community, from career help to free meals for children,” Newsom said. “An attack on libraries is an attack on communities – and California is fighting back.”

The attorneys general of New York, Rhode Island, Hawaii, Arizona, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Illinois, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, Oregon, Vermont, Washington, and Wisconsin also joined the lawsuit.

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