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Loss of funding to federal agencies could impact Va. libraries, museums

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PORTSMOUTH, Va. (WAVY) – What does the future hold for libraries and museums across the country? This question remains following the recent DOGE cuts to federal funding, with uncertainty coming after an **executive order** issued by President Donald Trump last month.

As part of the executive order, seven federal agencies were named and requested to submit a report to the director of the Office of Management and Budget, and asked to state full compliance, detailing which functions are vital to

keep. Those agencies are now in jeopardy to be eliminated or significantly trimmed down.

The **Institute of Museum and Library Services**, a main hub for federal support and grants to libraries and museums nationwide, is among the list of agencies in the executive order.

Now in a recent move to stop the continuation of DOGE cuts to IMLS, the American Library Association is suing President Trump.

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Virginia Library Association Executive Director Lisa Varga said if IMLS loses funding, positions will be scrapped from the state library, many of which support a multitude of services to people in the Commonwealth.

"I think it's really important that the American Library Association assert at this point the importance of the Institute of Museum and Library Services and the work that that organization does to provide support for every person in the United States," Varga said. "Grant programs are specifically tailored and grant proposals are specifically tailored to be able to illustrate the volume of impact those dollars have."

Varga emphasized how Virginia received \$6 million last year from IMLS and, if the current grant-to-states program dissolves, the Commonwealth could lose \$4 million in resources.

"When we see something like that go away or be threatened with closure, it's really upsetting to us not just for the positions lost," Varga said. "We see a lot of organizations that are having to lay off people, or federal government workers being terminated. But it's also the impact this will have on our societies. You know, libraries are really hubs and communities centers that provide support to people in so many ways, like with workforce development, helping people with resumes and apply for jobs."

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According to the executive director, individual libraries here will certainly be impacted if the state library takes a major hit as it provides resources to all of the libraries.

“We know the impact this money makes in all of our communities,” she says. “We know that it does trickle down to every single resident of the Commonwealth. And we would like to see it preserved, especially if it is statutorily required to be spent.”

Overall, Varga believes these cuts could result in a \$20 million loss of services in Virginia.

In Norfolk, the Chrysler Museum of Art said full funding and reauthorization of the [Institute of Museum and Library Services](#) is necessary, according to [a statement on the museum’s Facebook page](#), or else “our region risks losing critical resources that enhance education, support local jobs, strengthen the economy and drive tourism.”

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In the statement posted to social media, the Chrysler Museum stated the following:

In recent years, the Chrysler Museum has received \$1.2 million in federal funding, including from the Institute of Museum and Library Services, for operations, exhibitions and capacity-building projects. While grant awards vary in size, their impact often exceeds their dollar amount, yielding long-term benefits for the Chrysler Museum and our community.

This week is National Library Week. It is a chance to celebrate and highlight the valuable role libraries and library workers play in transforming lives and strengthening our communities – including those at the IMLS. Without full funding and reauthorization of IMLS, our region risks losing critical resources that enhance education, support local jobs, strengthen the economy and drive tourism.

We are in communication with our coalition partners and other stakeholders to assess the sector’s legal options. We ask you to support the Chrysler Museum of Art, the IMLS and communities across the country at risk of losing vital resources. For specific information on how to contact your representatives, visit <https://www.aam-us.org/2025/03/17/ask-your-museums-supporters-to-save-impls/>.

– Chrysler Museum of Art

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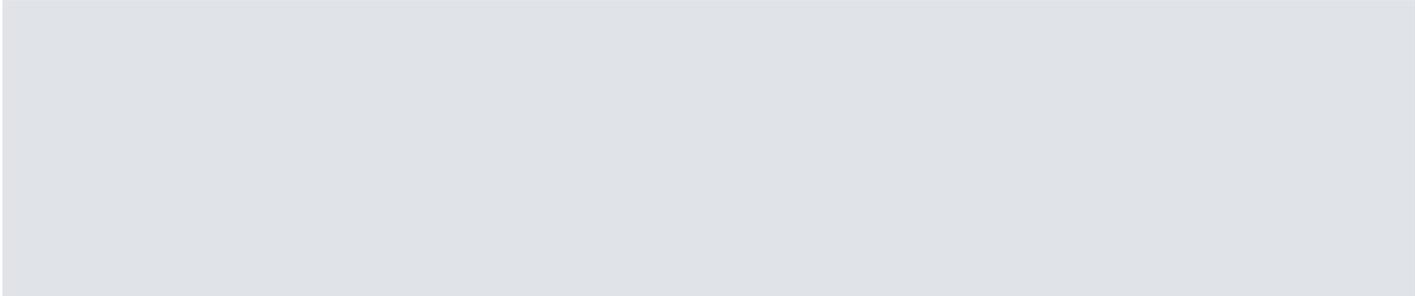
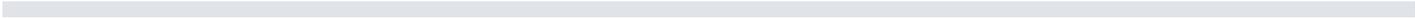
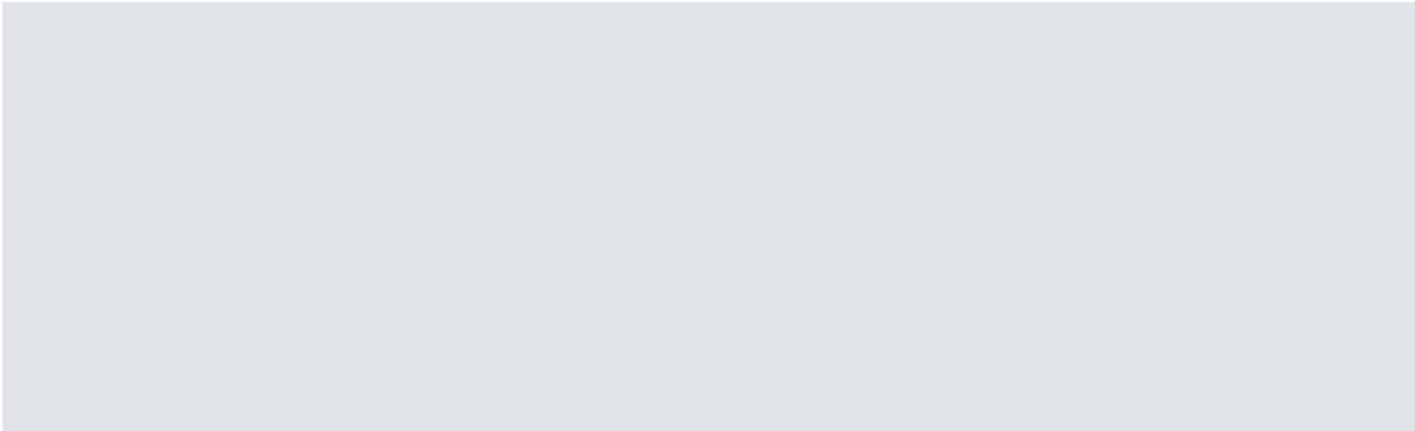
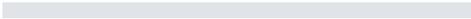
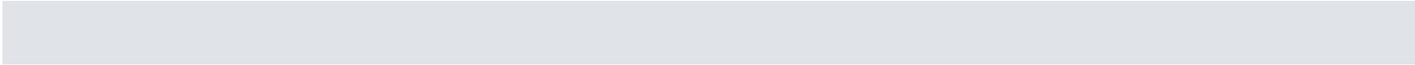
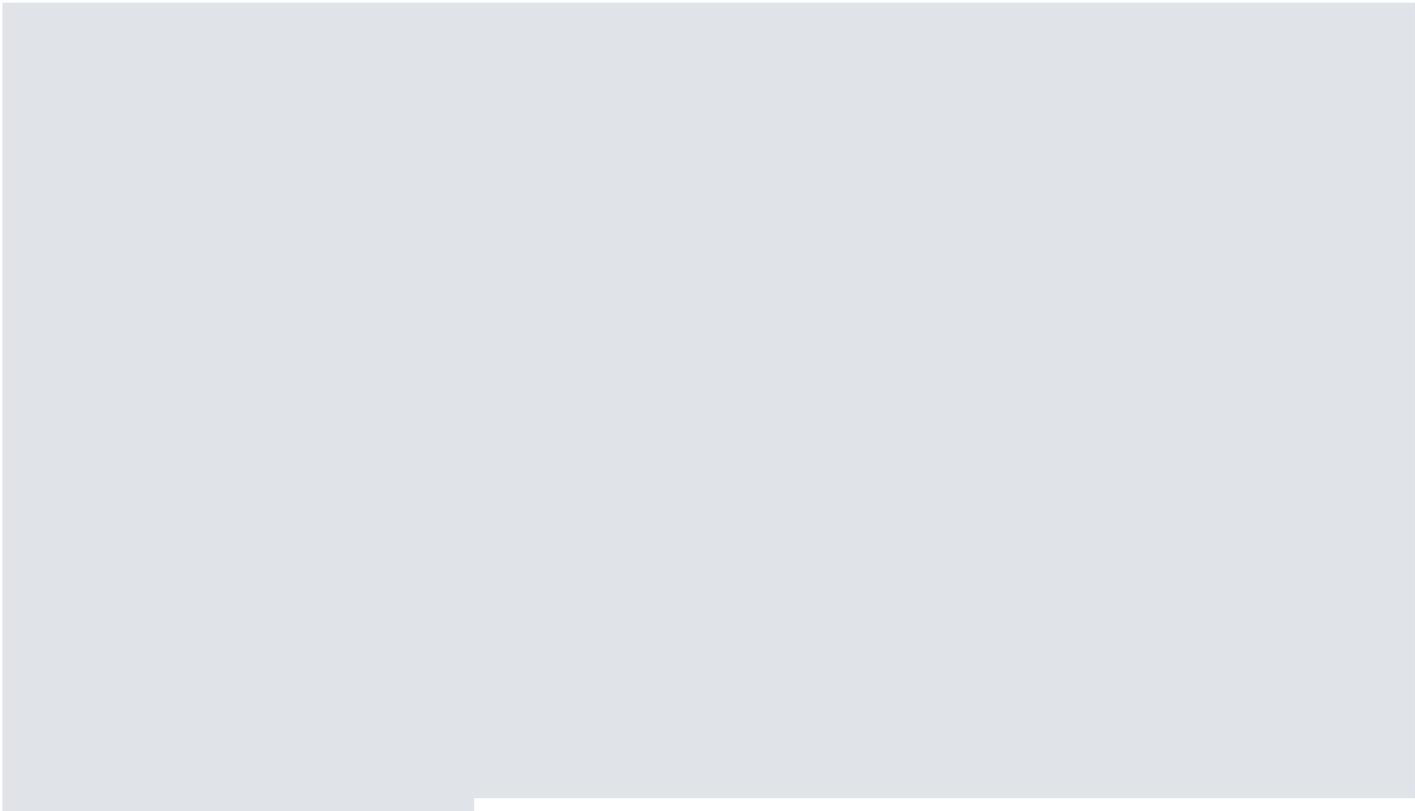
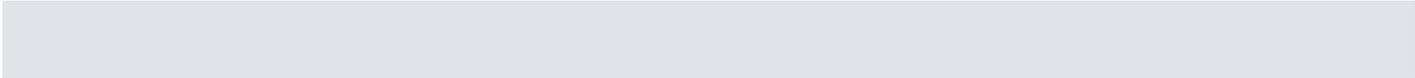
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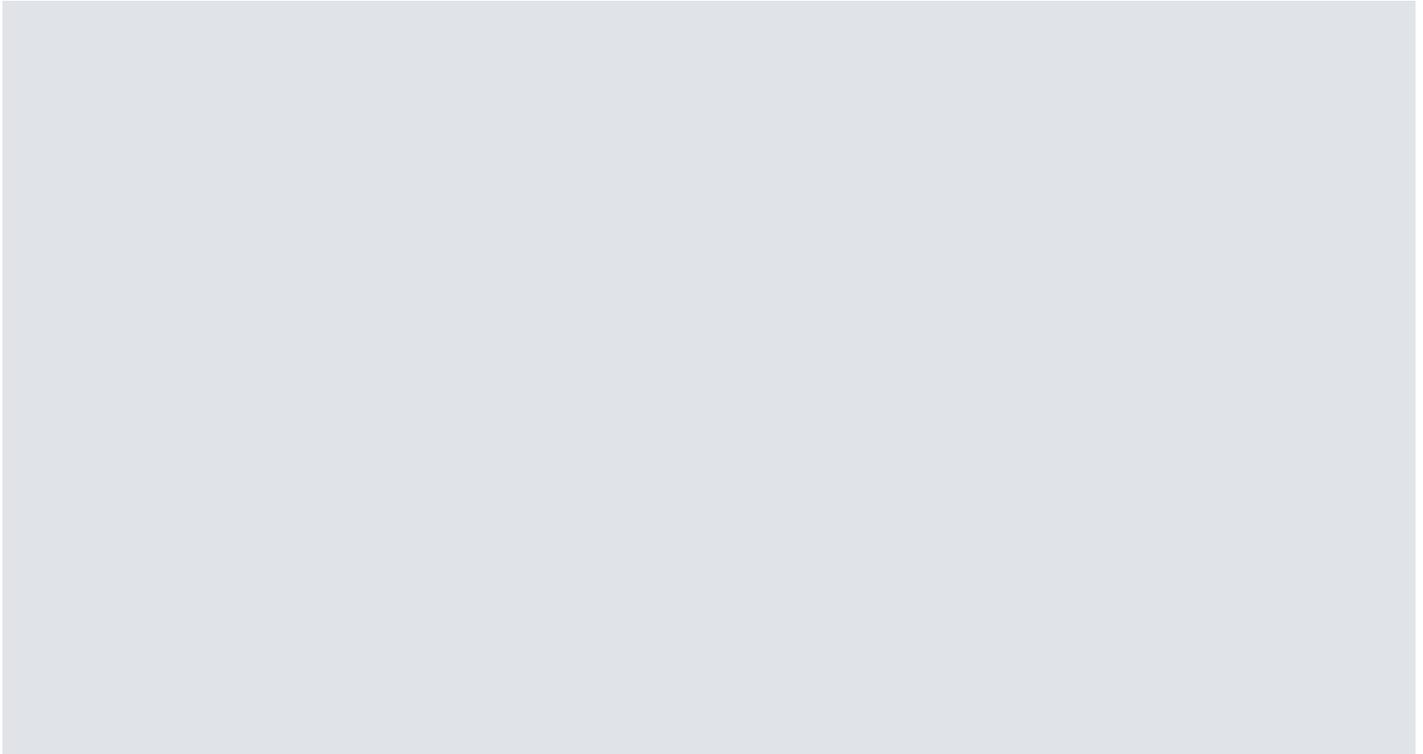
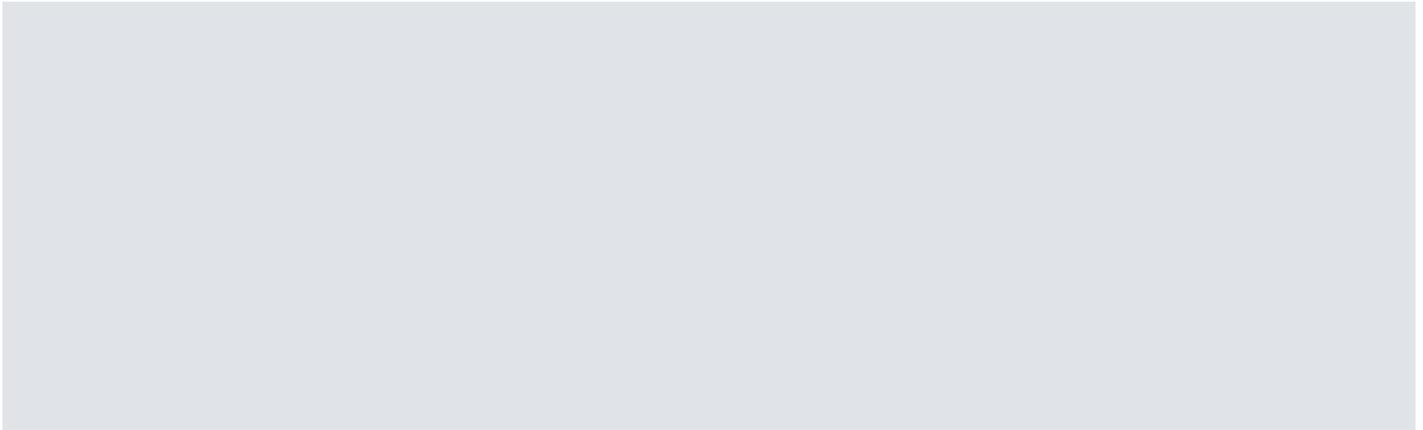
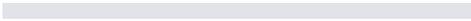
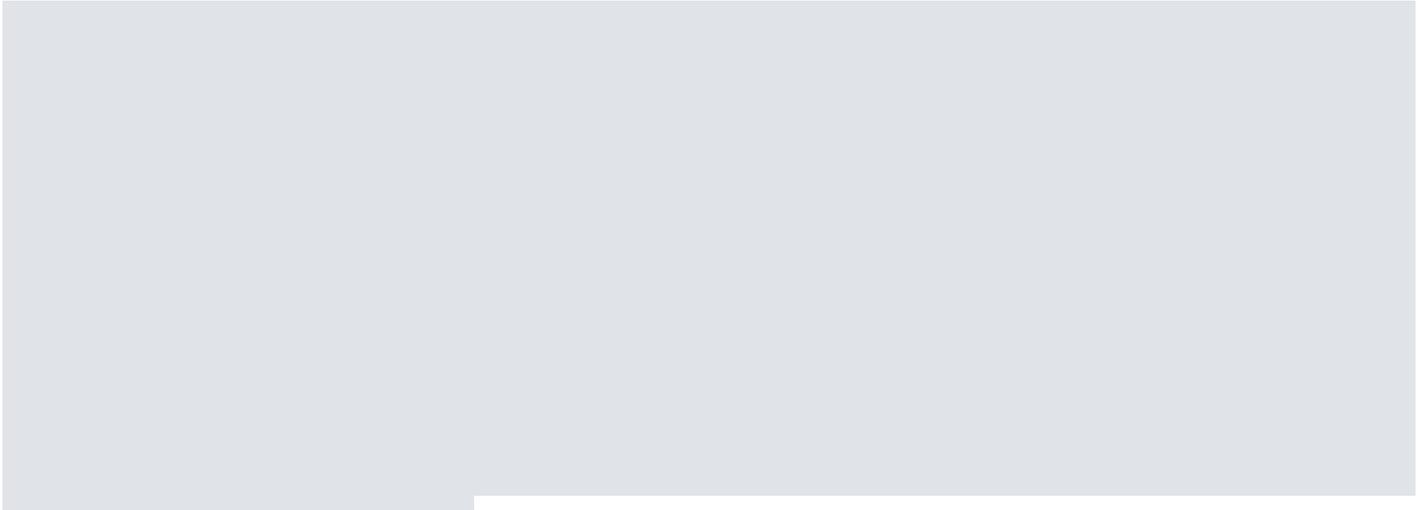
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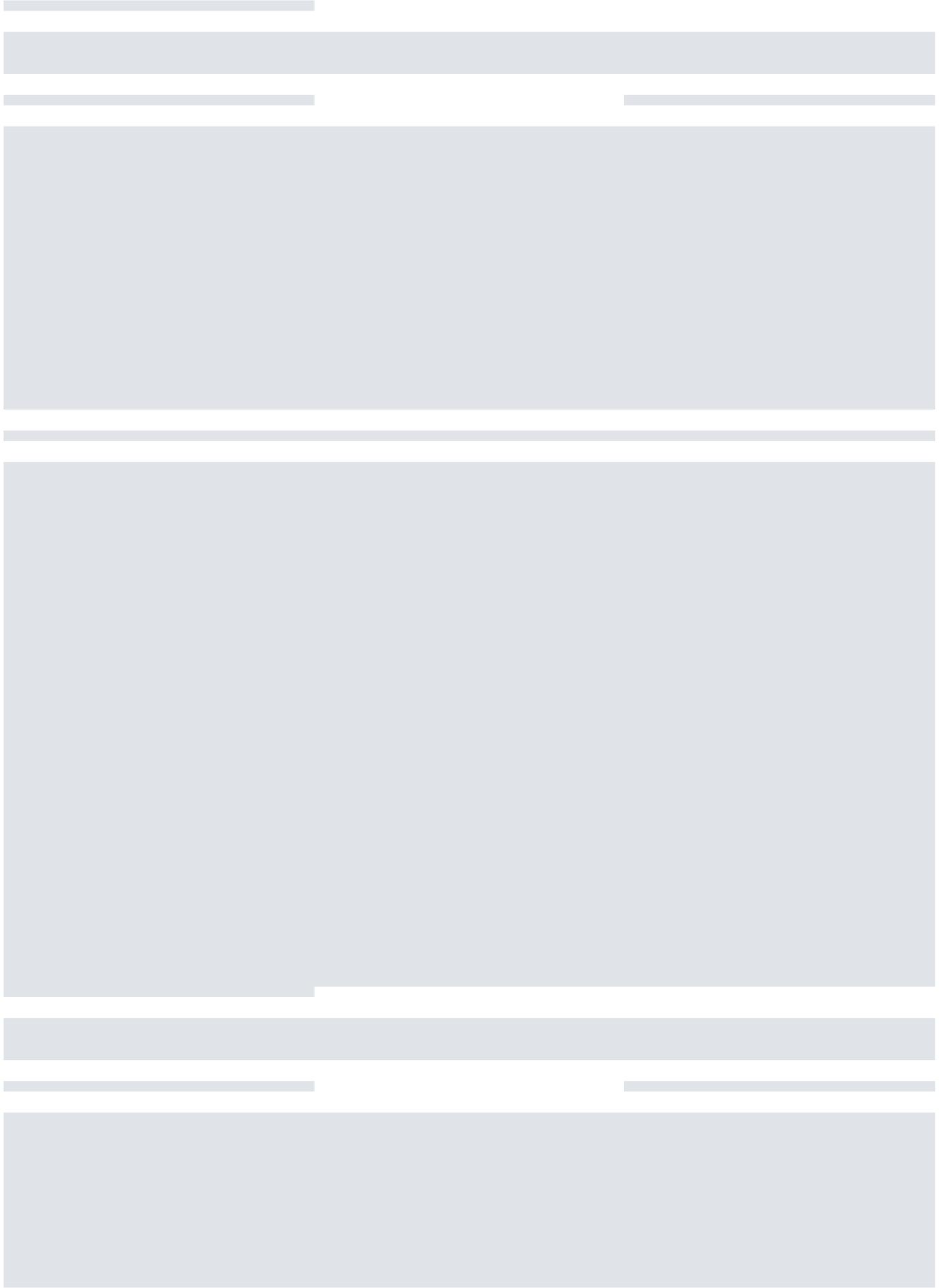


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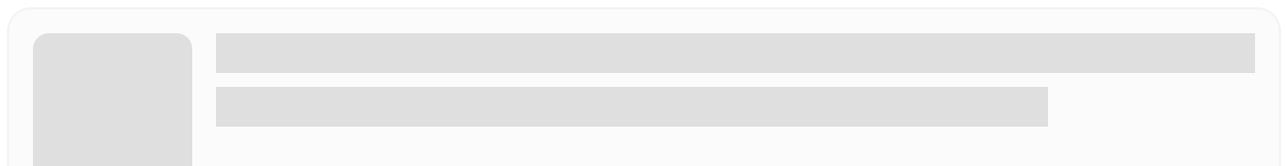








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