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Museum and Library Union Launches Legal Battle Against White House to Stop Cuts

Story by Tessa Solomon • 2d • 2 min read



Museum and Library Union Launches Legal Battle Against White House to Stop Cuts

In the latest legal challenge to the Trump administration from the cultural sector, the largest union of museum and library professionals in the United States has sued to block efforts to eliminate the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS).

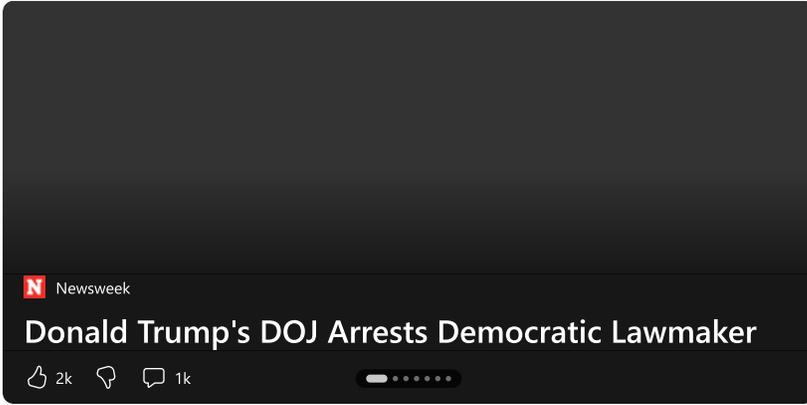
The lawsuit was filed in in the US District Court for the District of Columbia on behalf of the American Library Association (ALA) and the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME), a union representing over 42,000 US cultural workers. It seeks a preliminary injunction against the Trump administration's dismissal of most of the IMLS staff.

Feedback

The lawsuit also seeks to halt the cancellation of grants allocated by the institute, arguing that congressional approval was required before such cuts could be made. The union is the only entity that may lawfully disburse the money, it says, and certainly

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A woman gestures while casting an early ballot on the last day of early voting in Michigan at a polling station in Lansing, Michigan, U.S. November 3, 2024. REUTERS/Carlos Osorio © provided by RawStory

Congressional Republicans pushed through a bill on Thursday that could hinder voting rights across the nation, [according to a Democracy Docket analysis](#).

“For over a century and a half, the U.S. government has largely acted as a force to protect and expand voting rights — often in opposition to efforts by state or local officials to limit them. Until now, neither house of Congress had ever passed legislation to significantly restrict access to the ballot,” the analysis stated.

“There’s never been an attack on voting rights out of Congress like this,” Alexander Keyssar, a professor of History and Social Policy at the Harvard Kennedy School and a leading [historian of voting rights](#), told Democracy Docket. “It’s always been the federal government trying to keep states in check on voting rights, for the most part.”

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