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Librarians aren't being quiet when it comes to the Trump administration's funding cuts

Source: [Scripps News](#)

Posted 12:06 PM, Apr 10, 2025 and last updated 12:15 PM, Apr 10, 2025

National Library Week is an annual celebration intended to underline the valuable role that libraries play in communities. But this year, it feels like librarians are spending less time highlighting why they exist and more time fighting to exist. On one webpage, you'll see the American Library Association (ALA) announcing this year's celebration week theme is "Drawn to the Library," – and on another page, the nonprofit said it has drawn up a lawsuit against the Trump administration to challenge the recent dismantling of the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS).

The American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, considered the largest union representing museum and library workers, also joined the lawsuit that was filed earlier this week in Washington. This lawsuit is in response to President Donald Trump's signing of an executive order on March 14, titled "Continuing The Reduction Of The Federal Bureaucracy," that targeted seven federal agencies, including the IMLS.

The order did not explicitly eliminate those agencies, but what it did do, according to the lawsuit, was dismiss most of the IMLS staff, fire its entire board and pull grants that over 17,000 state library systems rely on for part of their funding. According to the ALA's lawsuit, the agency is the only federal entity dedicated to library funds. While it is not the sole source of funding for libraries in the U.S., it is used in many different ways – from basic purchasing of library tools like computers and actual books to helping pilot educational programs.

The ALA said Elon Musk's Department of Government Efficiency gutted the IMLS without Congressional authorization, which would be illegal, and that it has already caused "irreparable harm." Major publishers like Penguin Random House, Simon & Schuster, Hachette Book Group and Sourcebooks banded together in a letter to Congress advocating for libraries and the restoration of the IMLS.

Read more: <https://www.scrippsnews.com/politics/president-trumps-first-100-days/librarians-arent-being-quiet-when-it-comes-to-the-trump-administrations-cuts>

Link to **SUIT** (PDF) - <https://democracyforward.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/001.-2025.04.07-ALA-v.-Sonderling-Complaint.pdf>

Link to **LETTER** - [Publishers Send Letter to Congress Advocating for Libraries & IMLS Funding](#)

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Karasu
14 hrs ago

1. "The ALA said Elon Musk's Department of Government Efficiency gutted the IMLS without Congressional authorization, which

would be illegal."

ALL of DOGE's funding cuts are illegal for that very reason. Congress isn't voting on any of this shit. It's just controlled by a bunch of useless Republicans who are content to give up their powers, sit on their fucking asses, and watch these fascists run the country into the ground.

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