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## California sues Trump administration for terminating millions in funding for State Library

The funding is used to assist local California libraries and branches across the state in providing services such as literacy initiatives for adults and children, summer reading and activity programs, reading programs for veterans, work-readiness programs and resources for people who are visually impaired.

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**Daniel Macht** 

Digital Media Manager

The state of California has filed a lawsuit against President Donald Trump's administration for **terminating** a \$15.7 million grant to the California State Library.

Gov. Gavin Newsom and Attorney General Rob Bonta cited the start of National Library Week in highlighting the new lawsuit, which was filed Friday in U.S. District Court in Rhode Island.

*(Previous coverage in the video above.)*

Attorneys general in 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 are also listed as plaintiffs.

The lawsuit is in response to **Executive Order 14238**, which calls for eliminating the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), among other agencies, "to the maximum extent consistent with applicable law."

**IMLS** was established as an independent federal agency by Congress and supports libraries, archives and museums.

According to the lawsuit, IMLS put 85% of its staff on administrative leave, "dramatically curtailed the administration of hundreds of grants and grant applications, and terminated statutorily mandated grant awards to several states."

**[Read the lawsuit here.](#)**

California said that more than 21% of the grant's funding has yet to be sent to California. The lawsuit said that it amounted to about \$3.4 million in promised funds at the time the grant was terminated.

The funding is used to assist local California libraries and branches across the state in providing services such as literacy initiatives for adults and children, summer reading and activity programs, reading programs for veterans, work-readiness programs and resources for people who are visually impaired.

“We are deeply disappointed by this ill-informed decision, which immediately affects critical programs supported by these funds,” Rebecca Wendt, California deputy state librarian, **told KCRA 3 last week.**

Wendt told KCRA 3 that the grant also pays for 34 jobs at the California State Library and many Braille and audio books.

Without the funding support of IMLS, those programs that support 800,000 blind, visually impaired or dyslexic residents “are likely to end, and layoffs would ensue,” the lawsuit says.

“In California, we know libraries hold more than books,” Newsom said in a statement. “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. An attack on libraries is an attack on communities – and California is fighting back.”

The lawsuit lists Trump and officials from multiple agencies as defendants.

It's the state's 12th lawsuit against the Trump administration.

KCRA 3 has reached out to IMLS for comment. The email for at least one media contact bounced back.

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