

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

April 9, 2025

The Honorable Keith Sonderling
Acting Director
Institute of Museum and Library Services
955 L'Enfant Plaza, North, SW, Suite 4000
Washington, D.C. 20024

Dear Mr. Sonderling:

We write with regards to the immediate impacts to the state of Maine due to the cuts made to the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) in the aftermath of the executive order, titled “Continuing the Reduction of the Federal Bureaucracy,” issued by President Trump on March 14, 2025. IMLS funds have been integral in maintaining and developing Maine’s libraries and museums—these institutions are among the core tools and resources that comprehensively sustain several aspects of education and community engagement for people across all generations in Maine.

The IMLS was established within the National Foundation on the Arts and Humanities by the Museum and Library Services Act (MLSA) in 1966, and has since been amended on multiple occasions, most recently in 2018, under the first Trump Administration. As such, the activities and offices of the IMLS’ are directed by Congress and required by law.

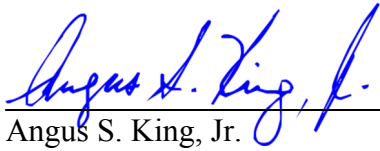
Since 1997, libraries, museums, and cultural institutions across the state of Maine have received statutorily mandated IMLS funding through the Library Services Technology Act, (LSTA) specifically, through the Grants to States program. LSTA currently serves at least the state’s 600 school, 20 special, 33 academic and 257 public libraries statewide. This funding has helped increase the accessibility of programs offered at museums and libraries, along with the invaluable collections and learning opportunities provided in communities statewide.

In a rural state like Maine, achieving equitable access to technology and broadband continues to be a challenge because many households have limited or no affordable internet access. These rural libraries serve as essential “hotspots” for connecting our constituents with the digital world including opportunities from job training and certifications to educational learning. In addition, this funding provides resources for small business and entrepreneurs. These IMLS grants also provide essential support Maine museums and libraries serving as learning centers for children who don’t have access to pre-K programs in the state.

Since the executive order was announced, these institutions have already experienced delays in receiving reimbursement for contracted services, putting programming in jeopardy along with the critical staff who are paid with LSTA funding. Any further disruption to eliminate staff or reduce IMLS funding would be incredibly damaging to libraries and museums across Maine.

The impact of IMLS funding is not only significant for Maine, but also nationwide. We look forward to your prompt attention and response to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Angus S. King, Jr.", written in a cursive style.

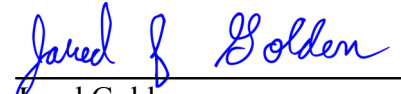
Angus S. King, Jr.
United States Senator

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Susan M. Collins", written in a cursive style.

Susan M. Collins
United States Senator

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Chellie R.", written in a cursive style.

Chellie Pingree
Member of Congress

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Jared J. Golden", written in a cursive style.

Jared Golden
Member of Congress