



North Dakota Library Association  
*Established 1906*

## **CALL TO ACTION: President Trump's Proposed Federal Budget Cuts to IMLS**

March 24, 2017

### **President Trump's Proposed Budget Cuts**

As you well know, President Donald Trump recently sent his proposed budget to Congress. The president's proposed budget calls for the elimination of the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) and funding through the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA). These cuts will directly and adversely impact the operations of state libraries, which will impact all libraries across the country.

The North Dakota State Library uses LSTA funds for the following:

- Databases
- Talking Books
- Information Technology Support Services
- Technical Services
- Statewide Documents
- Library Development Services
- Continuing Education: Summer Summit and Renewal & Development Conference
- ODIN and WorldCat

These services are not only vital, they are, in many ways, the backbone of our state's library community. Considering the state's current budget situation, there is no reason to believe that the state will provide funds to make up for the loss of these federal dollars.

Additionally, President Trump's budget also calls for the elimination of other government agencies and programs that indirectly impact libraries such as: The National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), and the Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB which oversees PBS and NPR).

### **What to Expect**

There is an old truism in American government: "Presidents propose but Congress disposes."

No president's budget proposal gets through Congress without significant changes. In fact, most bear little resemblance to the president's original proposal. However, what makes President Trump's budget so significant is the fact that the majority in the House of Representatives agrees in principle with much of the president's called for cuts. And, as you will remember from studying American

government, the Constitution gives the House of Representatives the “Power of the Purse.” All tax and spending bills must first originate in the House.

Crafting the federal budget is a long, arduous process that takes place over many months. This budget will be no different. We must remember that President Trump’s budget is a “blueprint” but it is one that is shaping the budget discussion moving forward. And that is why this is so important.

### **What You Can Do Now**

All national library organizations have come out in strong opposition to these proposed cuts. There will be a concerted effort in the coming months to save funding for these essential programs and agencies.

Even though we are only at an early stage in this process, your Legislative Committee wants you to know that it is vitally important that you take the opportunity to contact North Dakota’s congressional delegation and specifically urge them to oppose these cuts.

Senators John Hoeven and Heidi Heitkamp are already on the record in opposition to aspects of President Trump’s budget. Please ask them and Representative Kevin Cramer to also oppose these cuts. Tell them how important IMLS and LSTA funds are to your work and to the future of North Dakota’s libraries.

Everyone who is involved in congressional relations tells us that phone calls and in-person visits (both scheduled and as “drop ins”) are the most effective method of citizen persuasion. For this reason, please call our delegation within the next week. Their contact information is as follows:

#### **Senator John Hoeven**

Bismarck: (701) 250-4618  
Fargo: (701) 239-5389  
Washington: (202) 224-2551  
[www.hoeven.senate.gov](http://www.hoeven.senate.gov)

#### **Senator Heidi Heitkamp**

Bismarck: (701) 258-4648  
Fargo: (701) 232-8030  
Washington: (202) 224-2043  
[www.heitkamp.senate.gov](http://www.heitkamp.senate.gov)

#### **Representative Kevin Cramer**

Bismarck: (701) 224-0355  
Fargo: (701) 356-2217  
Washington: (202) 225-2611  
[www.cramer.house.gov](http://www.cramer.house.gov)

Your Legislative Committee will keep you informed on developments and will provide you with additional information as it becomes available.

### **Have further questions, comments, ideas, or want to get involved?**

Contact Christine Kujawa, Bismarck Public Library, at [ckujawa@bismarcklibrary.org](mailto:ckujawa@bismarcklibrary.org) or Janet Anderson, Minot Public Library, at [janet.anderson@minotnd.org](mailto:janet.anderson@minotnd.org).