

March 30, 2017

Dear Senator Moran,

I am writing to you on behalf of the Kansas Library Association membership, representing all librarians in the State of Kansas. I ask that you support libraries and the funding of library services by voting against the President's FY2018 budget which eliminates the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS).

In 2016, IMLS received \$230 million. This is a minute percentage of the federal budget, yet the benefit of the grants and services of IMLS are critical to our nation's libraries.

In Kansas, the Kansas State Library receives and administers approximately \$1.7 million in funding which is appropriated by the IMLS. This funding is used for the following services:

- Talking Books Service for the Blind and Physically Disabled;
- Statewide database subscriptions available to all Kansas residents;
- eBook platforms and purchases/leases;
- Summer Reading Programs throughout the state;
- Grants to individual libraries, for purchase of books by Kansas authors;
- Early reading eResources such as BookStax and BookFlix;
- Statewide resource sharing including the statewide catalog and Interlibrary Loan
- Digitization of state documents.

These services are important to all Kansans, especially in rural areas of the state. In addition, the cost savings in one area alone in this list of services is worth noting. Should the libraries across Kansas subscribe to the statewide databases on their own, i.e. each paying its own subscription costs, the cost would be \$55M. The State Library subscribes on behalf of all Kansans at the cost of \$1.1M. This is a cost savings of \$54M. I think you will agree that this is quite a return on investment!

On behalf of all Kansas librarians and the residents who use library services, I ask that you oppose a pending resource catastrophe in our libraries and that funding to the IMLS be increased and NOT eliminated.

Thank you very much for supporting our librarians in the past, and for your exemplary service to Kansas residents in the Senate.

Yours faithfully

Gloria Creed-Dikeogu, PhD

Kansas, Library Association President