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NYLA's Statement on President Trump's Executive Order Eliminating IMLS Funding

IMLS is the only federal agency dedicated to funding and supporting America's libraries, and a key resource hub for our nation's more than 125,000 libraries. While constituting just 0.003% of the federal budget, spending on school, academic, public, and special libraries aids the operation of institutions that see more than 1.2 billion visits every year. By eliminating IMLS, the Trump administration is destroying a valued and trusted institution that has faithfully tended to the needs of libraries and library users nationwide for nearly three decades. This is nothing more than a targeted attack on the American people's ability to access information, resources, and education regardless of their socioeconomic background, immigration status, race, age, or gender.

New Yorkers benefited from \$19.9 million in IMLS administered federal funding in FY 2024. Whether through funding early and adult literacy programs, summer reading programs, workforce development initiatives, aid to veterans, broadband access, or the essential administrative functions executed by the New York State Library that support our state's 7,000 libraries and 72 library systems, the grants facilitated by IMLS benefit all New Yorkers. To eliminate IMLS is to directly injure each community in our state.

From the bustling streets of Manhattan to the quiet corners of Upstate towns and villages, New Yorkers of all partisan affiliations agree: libraries are essential. Libraries are not just about books; they are places of opportunity and empowerment that serve as critical resources for every community. They provide tax help, language conversation groups, after-school enrichment, summer reading, high-speed internet access, computer classes, resume workshops, and interview prep among countless other services available for FREE and for EVERYONE.

Libraries are places where all are welcome, where anyone can access the information and resources they need to thrive. But now, with Trump administration's executive order set to decimate the mechanisms of federal library funding and support, these essential services are at risk. This order is an outright assault on the American people's access to

information, education, and the valuable programs that libraries provide to their communities.

The New York Library Association urges President Trump to reconsider this ill-advised decision. We ask U.S. Congressmembers, Senators, and decision-makers at every level of government to visit the libraries that serve their constituents and speak out in support of IMLS. Furthermore, we call on the White House to preserve federal funding for America's libraries.

Now more than ever, NYLA asks all New Yorkers to stand up for libraries.