



CHIEF OFFICERS OF STATE LIBRARY AGENCIES

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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COSLA Statement on the Executive Order Impacting the Institute of Museum and Library Services

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A dismantling of the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) would have negative implications for every American and the library services they rely upon. The Chief Officers of State Library Agencies (COSLA) is greatly dismayed but not surprised at the Executive Order targeting the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) and other cultural institutions. IMLS is the single largest source of critical Federal funding for libraries, which makes up a substantial portion, from an average of one third to over one half of each State Library agency's annual budget.

Every State Library Agency is committed to serving the residents of their state with effective and impactful library services. This Executive Order runs entirely counter to COSLA's recently released [Statement of Core Values](#). It will be difficult for our nation's state libraries to successfully advance their missions should Federal funding be eliminated.

The Executive Order raises many questions about which programs are statutory, and which are discretionary. In the days ahead, COSLA will be moving carefully and intentionally forward to understand and share the most accurate information available. COSLA is well-positioned to work within our states and with partners from around the library community to find a positive path forward which minimizes the negative impacts of Federal disruptions.

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About COSLA

The Chief Officers of State Library Agencies (COSLA), an independent organization of the principal library officials in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and two territories, responsible for statewide library development. Its purpose is to nurture state library administrative agencies, and lead with a collective voice for the nation's libraries. cosla.org