



October 25, 2016

Senator Jack Reed
728 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Susan Collins
413 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Thad Cochran
113 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Kirsten Gillibrand
478 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Reed, Collins, Cochran, and Gillibrand,

We, the undersigned national, regional, and state museum organizations, write to thank you for introducing S. 3391, the Museum and Library Services Act of 2016. This legislation, which we support, will strengthen the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) and enhance its ability to help museums serve their communities.

IMLS is the primary federal agency that helps museums connect people to information and ideas. Its Office of Museum Services awards grants for educational programming, collections care, professional development, and community outreach. In addition to these grants, the agency also conducts research and data collection, facilitates state and regional collaboration, and advances the museum field through national initiatives.

America's museums are economic engines, employing 400,000 people and directly investing \$21 billion in their communities each year. They are also core educational infrastructure, conducting over 55 million annual visits with school students involving everything from field trips to museum staff programs in schools themselves. Despite these profound impacts nationwide, the Office of Museum Services only received \$31 million in Fiscal Year 2016 funding.

The Museum and Library Services Act of 2016 contains a number of provisions specifically supported by the museum field: bolstering the agency's research and data collection, maintaining an emphasis on state and regional collaboration, expanding interagency partnerships, and highlighting the importance of access to high-quality museum services for every American. We also support the 21st Century Museum Professional Program, which seeks to improve the preparation and training of museum professionals, especially those from diverse and underrepresented backgrounds.

Again, thank you for your support of the museum field. We look forward to working with you to enact this important legislation.

Sincerely,

National Organizations (alphabetical)

American Alliance of Museums
American Association for Museum Volunteers
American Association for State and Local History
American Federation of Arts
American Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works
American Public Gardens Association
Association for Living History, Farm and Agricultural Museums
Association of Academic Museums and Galleries
Association of African American Museums
Association of Art Museum Curators
Association of Art Museum Directors
Association of Children's Museums
Association of Science-Technology Centers
Association of Tourist Railroads and Railway Museums
Association of Zoos and Aquariums
International Museum Theatre Alliance
Museum Computer Network
Museum Education Roundtable
Museum Trustee Association
National Association for Interpretation
National Coalition for History
National Humanities Alliance
Natural Science Collections Alliance

Regional Organizations (alphabetical)

Association of Midwest Museums
Mid-Atlantic Association of Museums
Mountain-Plains Museums Association
New England Museum Association
Southeastern Museums Conference
Western Museums Association

State Organizations (alphabetical by state)

Museum Association of Arizona
Arkansas Museums Association
Museums Alaska
California Association of Museums
Colorado-Wyoming Association of Museums
Connecticut League of History Organizations
Delaware Museum Association
Florida Association of Museums
Georgia Association of Museums and Galleries
Hawaii Museums Association
Idaho Association of Museums
Illinois Association of Museums
Illinois Heritage Association
Kansas Museums Association

Louisiana Association of Museums
Michigan Museums Association
Minnesota Association of Museums
Mississippi Museums Association
Missouri Association for Museums and Archives
Museums Association of Montana
Museum Association of New York
Museums in North Dakota
New Jersey Association of Museums
New Mexico Association of Museums
Ohio Museums Association
Oklahoma Museums Association
PA Museums
Association of South Dakota Museums
Tennessee Association of Museums
Texas Association of Museums
Utah Museums Association
Virginia Association of Museums
West Virginia Association of Museums
Wisconsin Federation of Museums