

Aloha AALL colleagues and friends,

The **American Association of Law Libraries (AALL)** stands with our library community nationwide, many who are our colleagues and friends. The recent executive order calling for the elimination of the **Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS)** represents a significant loss for the library community and country at large. IMLS has been a cornerstone of federal support for libraries, including law libraries, by funding essential initiatives that enhance access to legal information and strengthen professional development for law librarians and legal information professionals.

Specifically, IMLS provides support through both state block grants and direct grants to individual libraries, funding initiatives such as high-speed internet access, employment assistance for job seekers, and small business support—among a multitude of worthy programs. These crucial resources enable citizens to improve their lives and engage with their communities. Pulling IMLS funding will have a profound negative impact on countless library professionals and their stakeholders who rely on its support, prohibiting them from making meaningful contributions to our society.

Law libraries across the country—whether in academic, public, or government settings—partner with IMLS funded libraries who play a vital role in ensuring meaningful access to reliable, authoritative legal information and resources for people of all backgrounds. Through IMLS grants and programs, law libraries have developed innovative legal research tools, expanded services in public libraries to assist self-represented litigants, and created programs to attract the next generation of law librarians.

AALL urges all policymakers to recognize the indispensable role that IMLS plays in supporting libraries and sustaining the infrastructure of knowledge and access to legal information. Libraries are fundamental to a free and democratic society by providing community spaces to empower lifelong learning, literacy, inquiry, and meaningful conversation. We urge a reconsideration of this decision and the full restoration of IMLS funding.

Mahalo,



Jenny R.F.F. Silbiger
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