



## **A Resolution Supporting the Institute of Museum and Library Services**

Whereas the United States President Donald Trump released a FY2018 Budget Blueprint on March 16, 2017 that eliminates the agency budget of the Institute for Museum and Library Services (IMLS);

Whereas IMLS is celebrating its 20th Anniversary and is the primary source of federal support for the nation's 123,000 libraries and approximately 35,000 museums with more than \$210 million appropriated in FY2016;

Whereas the Arkansas Library Association (ArLA) represents libraries of all types: academic, public, school and special libraries and is "A Community of Libraries;"

Whereas we recognize that libraries change lives, protect our right to know, advance research and scholarship, help us to better understand each other and preserve our nation's cultural heritage;

Whereas libraries are America's most democratic institutions that ensure people have access to information and lifelong learning regardless of age, education, ethnicity, gender, language, income, physical limitations or geographic barriers; and, libraries strengthen communities and help create a more literate and just society;

Whereas every day, in countless communities across our nation and the world, millions of children, students and adults use libraries to learn, grow and achieve their dreams; and, in addition to a vast array of books, computers and other resources, library users benefit from the expert teaching and guidance of librarians and library staff to help expand their minds and open new worlds;

Whereas ArLA partners with and advocates for the Arkansas State Library, the state agency that receives and appropriately distributes federal funds from IMLS through the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA);

Whereas in FY2015, the Grants to States award for Arkansas was \$1,778,761 and was matched by state funding at \$916,331 through a Maintenance of Effort Requirement;

Whereas if IMLS is eliminated, library projects in Arkansas will be severely curtailed or completely eliminated;

Whereas decreasing or cutting programs such as the Arkansas Traveler Database project, the Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, annual Summer Reading Programs and other substantial State Library projects will negatively impact Arkansans of all ages in all regions of the state;

Whereas we support Innovative Approaches to Literacy (IAL) program which provides funding to school libraries through the Department of Education; and, Arkansas schools benefit from IAL funding;

Whereas ArLA was established in 1911 and represents over 500 members across Arkansas, and part of its core mission is to increase the visibility of libraries among the general public and funding agencies (and) to serve as an advocate for librarians and libraries;

Whereas ArLA is a Chapter of the American Library Association (ALA) which represents more than 58,000 members in the United States; now, therefore be it,

*Resolved* that the Arkansas Library Association, on behalf of its members:

1. Declares and affirms our right to quality libraries in the United States and Arkansas;
2. Stands with the American Library Association to save the Institute of Museum and Library Services;
3. Requests reinstatement of federal funds to the Institute for Museum and Library Services and Innovative Approaches to Literacy;
4. And, urges Arkansas' elected officials and library advocates to speak, act and vote in full support of our libraries.

*Adopted by the Arkansas Library Association Executive Board of Directors  
this 21<sup>st</sup> Day of April 2017 in North Little Rock, Arkansas*

Resources

Declaration for the Right to Libraries; Libraries Transform; American Library Association; Arkansas Library Association; Arkansas State Library; Institute for Museum and Library Services. Prepared by the ArLA Legislative Committee.