



November 28, 2018

The Honorable Lamar Alexander  
Chairman  
Committee on Health, Education,  
Labor & Pensions  
United States Senate  
428 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Health, Education,  
Labor & Pensions  
United States Senate  
632 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Alexander and Ranking Member Murray,

The American Alliance of Museums strongly supports S. 3530, the Museum and Library Services Act of 2018. Since this legislation was first introduced in 2016, it also has had the support of the national, regional and state museum organizations listed below. This bill, which we urge the Committee on Health, Education, Labor & Pensions to approve, 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, supporting more than 726,000 jobs and contributing \$50 billion to the U.S. economy per year. They are also part of this nation's 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 \$34.7 million in Fiscal Year 2019 funding.

The Museum and Library Services Act of 2018 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 21<sup>st</sup> Century Museum Professional Program, which seeks to improve the preparation and training of museum professionals, especially those from diverse and underrepresented backgrounds.

Again, we encourage the committee to approve S. 3530, the Museum and Library Services Act of 2018.

***American Alliance of Museums***

**National Organizations** (alphabetical)\*

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

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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  
Washington Museum Association  
West Virginia Association of Museums  
Wisconsin Federation of Museums

\* Organizations listed in October 25, 2016 letter in support of S. 3391, the Museum and Library Services Act of 2016