



April 10, 2017

The Honorable Ted Cruz
404 Russell Senate Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Cruz:

We write today to tell you of the importance of the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) and the federal Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) to libraries and library users across Texas.

We are the five members of the Texas State Library and Archives Commission, appointed by the Governor of Texas to guide the work of the Texas State Library and Archives Commission as it serves the needs of all Texans for authoritative information resources. LSTA funds from the IMLS are essential to meet the information need for millions of Texans through the hundreds of public and academic libraries across the state.

These resources allow the State Library and Archives to stretch valuable state funding to maximum value and provide a margin of excellence for local library service, drive innovation, and create libraries that are hubs for learning, technology access, workforce development, and economic growth in all parts of the state.

Texas receives nearly \$11 million each year in federal LSTA funds, the second largest allotment of any state after California, and these funds account for about 30% of the overall budget of our agency. Of these funds, over 90% are used for services that directly impact virtually every resident of our great state. We use the funds to support the immensely popular TexShare online information service, to completely support statewide interlibrary materials lending available to millions of Texans, and provide competitive grant funds to create innovative programs in public and academic libraries in all parts of the state.

We hope that as you make decisions regarding the federal budget, you will consider that these federal funds help Texans achieve their educational, economic, and personal dreams. In short, IMLS funding is important to help our citizens succeed and build a strong Texas. We stand by ready to provide any information you may require.

Thank you for your service to the State of Texas.

Sincerely,

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TSLAC

*Preserving yesterday
Informing today
Inspiring tomorrow*