

RESOLUTION URGING ELECTED OFFICIALS TO RESTORE FUNDING AND PREVENT ELIMINATION OF THE INSTITUTE AND MUSEUM LIBRARY SERVICES

The undersigned, being the Board Members of the Bucks County Free Library (“BCFL”) a Pennsylvania non-profit corporation incorporated as a 501(c) organization and a component unit of the County of Bucks, hereby resolve.

WHEREAS the Federal Institute of Museum and Library Services (“IMLS”) was created in 1996 and reauthorized in 2018 by legislation signed by President Donald Trump; and

WHEREAS, IMLS provides \$160,000,000 to statewide library agencies throughout the country covering one-third to one-half of their budgets to support database systems and collection management as well as computer instruction and other library programs especially to underserved individuals; and

WHEREAS, on March 14, 2025 President Trump issued an Executive Order identifying IMLS as an agency that should be eliminated to the maximum extent consistent with applicable law; and

WHEREAS, on March 31, 2025 most of the agency’s employees were placed on administrative leave for up to 90 days; and

WHEREAS, on April 2, 2025, 127 members of the House of Representatives urged President Trump to reconsider his Executive Order dismantling IMLS; and

WHEREAS, the BCFL, which has 7 branches and is affiliated with 11 District Member libraries, has indirectly benefited from IMLS funding having received a range of services provided to it from the Office of Commonwealth Libraries (“OCL”) and the Pennsylvania Library Association; and

WHEREAS, the BCFL continues to serve the traditional role of a library-lending materials and providing a space for life-long learning—it also offers much more; and

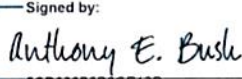
WHEREAS, in 2024 138,898 people had a BCFL library card, 77,566 attended a library program, 926,475 people visited its branches and 2,433,269 physical and digital items were borrowed from the library ; and

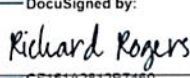
WHEREAS the BCFL is concerned about its ability to provide services to the residents of Bucks County at the levels to which they have been accustomed; and

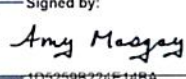
WHEREAS, the BCFL is concerned that services to Bucks County residents will be jeopardized unless the benefits it derives from the OCL, which are paid for by the IMLS, are restored and maintained.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved, that the undersigned members of the Bucks County Free Library Board of the County of Bucks, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania do hereby resolve the following:

1. The members of the BCFL Board collectively call upon our federally elected officials, Senator John Fetterman, Senator Dave McCormick and Representative Brian Fitzpatrick to (i) advocate for and insist on the continued existence of IMLS and that its funding be maintained at 2025 budgeted levels; and (ii) urge President Trump to reconsider his March 14, 2025 Executive Order concerning IMLS.
2. This resolution shall become effective immediately.

Dated: 04/22/2025 | 4:52 PM EDT
By: 
Anthony Bush

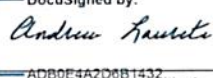
Dated: 04/23/2025 | 7:45 AM PDT
By: 
Rick Rogers

Dated: 04/24/2025 | 9:42 PM EDT
By: 
Amy Masgay

Dated: 04/24/2025 | 4:43 PM EDT
By: 
Brian Reimers

Dated: 04/22/2025 | 5:16 PM EDT
By: 
Linda Goodwin

Dated: 04/22/2025 | 7:53 PM EDT
By: 
Mary Cwiklinski

Dated: 04/23/2025 | 1:40 PM EDT
By: 
Andrew Laureti