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May 11, 2017

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Urban Libraries Council Statement on President Trump's Proposed Defunding of Institute of Museum and Library Services

Cuts would have drastic effects on libraries and the communities they serve

WASHINGTON – In his 2018 budget proposal, President Donald Trump called for the elimination of all federal funding to the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), the agency charged with funding all public libraries and museums, ensuring the continued ability to provide vital learning resources to communities across the country. In response to the president's dangerous proposal, Urban Libraries Council Executive Board Chair Michael Sherrod and ULC President and CEO Susan Benton issued the following statements:

"For 20 years, the Institute of Museum and Library Services has served our nation well, ensuring public libraries, one of our democracy's critical institutions, have the funding and resources needed to serve people of all races, ethnicities, religions and socio-economic statuses. The president's proposed cut would hurt the most vulnerable among us, including low-income and marginalized populations served by both rural and urban libraries," said Michael Sherrod, Executive Board Chair of the Urban Libraries Council.

"President Trump's proposed funding cuts to IMLS will do nothing to achieve a balanced budget while doing great harm to communities across the country. IMLS and the programs it administers



are about more than simple library funding, but rather are the crux of crucial services to individuals and families across the country. We will all be harmed if these proposed cuts are allowed to become a reality. We call on Congress to make sure libraries can continue to serve the people who count on them,” said ULC President and CEO Susan Benton.

About Urban Libraries Council

Urban Libraries Council (ULC), founded in 1971, is the voice for public libraries and the force that inspires them to evolve. ULC creates the tools, techniques, and ideas to make ongoing improvements and upgrades in services and technology. ULC also speaks loudly and clearly about the value public libraries bring to communities, and secures funding for research that results in the development of new programs and services. And by serving as a forum for library leadership, ULC produces innovative ideas and best practices that ensure community impact.

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