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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 2019 budget proposal – and for the second time since taking office – President Donald Trump has 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 President and CEO Susan Benton issued the following statement:

"With his 2019 budget, President Trump has again shown us education, digital inclusion for low-income children and families, and lifelong learning have not made it to the top of his list of priorities. Just like last year, his proposed funding cuts to IMLS will do nothing to achieve a balanced budget while doing great harm to communities across the country. The Institute of Museum and Library Services and the programs it administers help support people in their efforts to better themselves. Slashing this funding is counter to the values of our country which has been built on personal and professional growth through resources provided by public libraries. We call on Congress to make sure libraries can continue to serve the people who count on them."

## **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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