

October 25, 2016

Senator Jack Reed 728 Hart Senate Office Building Washington, DC 20510

Senator Thad Cochran 113 Dirksen Senate Office Building Washington, DC 20510 Senator Susan Collins 413 Dirksen Senate Office Building Washington, DC 20510

Senator Kirsten Gillibrand 478 Russell Senate Office Building Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Reed, Collins, Cochran, and Gillibrand,

We, the undersigned national, regional, and state museum organizations, write to thank you for introducing S. 3391, the Museum and Library Services Act of 2016. This legislation, which we support, 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, employing 400,000 people and directly investing \$21 billion in their communities each year. They are also 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 \$31 million in Fiscal Year 2016 funding.

The Museum and Library Services Act of 2016 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 21st Century Museum Professional Program, which seeks to improve the preparation and training of museum professionals, especially those from diverse and underrepresented backgrounds.

Again, thank you for your support of the museum field. We look forward to working with you to enact this important legislation.

Sincerely,

Letter of Support for S. 3391, the Museum and Library Services Act of 2016 October 25, 2016 Page Two

National Organizations (alphabetical)

American Alliance of Museums

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

Letter of Support for S. 3391, the Museum and Library Services Act of 2016 October 25, 2016 Page Three

Louisiana Association of Museums Michigan Museums Association Minnesota Association of Museums Mississippi Museums Association 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

West Virginia Association of Museums Wisconsin Federation of Museums