

The Board of Supervisors

County Administration Building
651 Pine Street, Room 106
Martinez, California 94553

John Gioia, 1st District
Candace Andersen, 2nd District
Mary N. Piepho, 3rd District
Karen Mitchoff, 4th District
Federal D. Glover, 5th District

Contra Costa County



David Twa
Clerk of the Board
and
County Administrator
(925) 335-1900

June 4, 2015

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
United States Senate
331 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

**RE: Preserve IMLS (Institute of Museum and Library Service) in Labor-HHS-
Education Appropriations Bills**

Dear Senator Feinstein:

As Chair of the Board of Supervisors of Contra Costa County, I write to request your assistance in preserving funding for the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) in the Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations bill. For the second year in a row, the House Budget committee has proposed its elimination.

IMLS funding includes the only federal grant program that is exclusively for libraries, supporting lifelong learning and innovative library programs throughout the nation. This past fiscal year, the Contra Costa County Library received nearly \$120,000 in grants from IMLS. In the past, the County has received \$72,000 for a youth literacy program, and \$121,000 for a library at a juvenile hall.

Patronage of the Contra Costa County Library continues to grow each year (over 4 million visits last year). Services include providing homework assistance to students, helping with job searches and resume writing, and offering computer access for those who might otherwise lack what has become a basic need in today's society.

With over 1.5 billion library visits a year nationally, it is essential that IMLS and its grant-making capabilities be preserved in the Labor-HHS-Education funding bills so that public libraries can continue to play a critical role in serving their local communities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "John Gioia".

JOHN GIOIA
Chair, Board of Supervisors

cc: Members, Board of Supervisors
 Contra Costa County Legislative Delegation
 David Twa, County Administrator
 Contra Costa County Library Commissioners
 Paul Schlesinger, Alcalde and Fay