

**RESOLUTION OF THE PETER WHITE BOARD OF TRUSTEES IN SUPPORT OF RETAINING FUNDING FOR THE INSTITUTE OF MUSEUM AND LIBRARY SERVICES (IMLS)**

WHEREAS, the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) is the primary source of federal funding for libraries and museums in the United States, providing essential funding to ensure access to information, lifelong learning, and community engagement; and

WHEREAS, IMLS funding, particularly through the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) grants, enables statewide programs such as the State of Michigan eLibrary (MeL), which provides residents with access to research databases, e-books, career development tools, and K-12 educational resources; and

WHEREAS, LSTA funding also enables the State of Michigan eLibrary Catalog (MeCat) and state-wide delivery system which provides 435 member libraries access to holdings of over 34 million items. These holdings, including books, audio, movies, and music provide library patrons access to unique and historical materials not widely available, regardless of geographic or economic barriers; and

WHEREAS, IMLS funding helps Michigan libraries bridge the digital divide by supporting technology training, improving broadband access, and fostering innovative programs that serve rural and underserved communities; and

WHEREAS, the loss or reduction of IMLS funding would significantly impact the ability of libraries and museums to serve their communities, limiting access to resources and programs that enhance quality of life and learning opportunities; and

WHEREAS, the Peter White Public Library Board of Trustees recognizes the vital role LSTA-funded programs play in fostering education, civic engagement, and cultural enrichment, and believes that continued federal investment in IMLS is essential to sustaining statewide library service that meet the needs of Michigan residents;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Peter White Public Library Board of Trustees strongly urges the United States Congress to maintain full funding for the Institute of Museum and Library Services, ensuring that libraries and museums across the country can continue to provide essential services to their communities.

ADOPTED this 18 of March, 2025 by the Peter White Public Library Board of Trustees.

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Steve Schmunk  
Carol Steinhaus  
Lori Nelson  
Joe Meyskens

(Signatures redacted for security purposes)