

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

The Honorable Kamala Harris
112 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Feinstein and Senator Harris:

I am writing on behalf of the Monterey County Board of Supervisors to urge you to cosponsor S. 2271, the Museum and Library Services Act of 2017. This critical bill renews and builds on the \$231 million commitment to the federal museum and library programs administered by the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS).

The Museum and Library Services Act represents our national commitment to ensuring these institutions are funded, staffed, and accessible to all. Through a relatively modest federal investment, this law helps build capacity to support and expand access to library and museum services at the state and local level. It will help fully leverage the role of libraries and museums in supporting the learning, educational, and workforce development needs of Americans nationwide. By updating the law to help museums and libraries improve their technology, enhance collaboration, and better serve the public and communities, the reauthorization bill will:

- Strengthen the use of data driven tools, including research, analysis and modeling, evaluation, and dissemination, to measure the impact and maximize the effectiveness of library and museum services, build capacity, and better tailor local services to address and meet community needs;
- Provide technical support and assistance to improve data collection; enhance consultation and public engagement in research, data collection, analysis, and dissemination activities; and ensure that disseminated materials are accessible and easy to digest and use;
- Highlight the roles of libraries as community hubs, equipped to serve evolving and diverse community needs (including those of rural residents, individuals with disabilities, Native Americans, veterans, military families, and caregivers, among others) in such areas as literacy; education; lifelong learning; health information; workforce development; economic and business development; digital literacy, critical thinking, and financial literacy; and new and emerging technology; and
- Authorize activities to improve the recruitment, preparation, and professional development of museum professionals to preserve our heritage for future generations.

Over the last five years, Monterey County libraries have received nearly \$300,000 in grants from IMLS that have enabled us to create a Veterans' Resource Center in King City, provide STEM programming to middle and high schoolers, introduce new methods of providing literacy services, and many other useful and innovative services.

We encourage you to support this important legislation, and thank you for your support for Monterey County.

Sincerely,