CONTRA COSTA COUNTY LIBRARY COMMISSION
AGENDA ATTACHMENT 2

MEETING DATE:            Thursday, March 22, 2018
AGENDA ITEM #:           5.C.
ITEM:                   WORKING COMMITTEE REPORTS

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

No Action Required
February 22, 2018

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
United States Senate
331 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

RE: Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) Reauthorization, Preserve Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) Funding

Dear Senator Feinstein:

On behalf of the Board of Supervisors of Contra Costa County, I write to request your support in reauthorizing the Library Technology and Services Act (LSTA) and preserving funding for the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) in the FY 2019 budget.

IMLS funding includes the only federal grant program that is exclusively for libraries, supporting lifelong learning and innovative library programs throughout the nation. Contra Costa County Library has been able to fund several innovative programs through such grants. Patronage of the Contra Costa County Library remains strong (over 3.5 million visits last year); services include 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. Additionally, many states’ Braille and Talking Book libraries (BTBL) are dependent upon the IMLS for much of their funding. In California BTBL receives 90% of its funding from IMLS.

Your support is also requested to continue the Department of Education’s Innovative Grants for Literacy program. To be eligible for 21st century jobs, literacy skills are imperative. Thus, supporting programs that assist Americans who want to learn to read is vitally important for our country’s future. With over 1.5 billion library visits a year nationally, it is essential that IMLS and its grant making capabilities be preserved in this year’s budget and appropriations process so that public libraries can continue to serve the public and innovate.

Your consideration of this request and your service to our country are greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

KAREN MITCHEFF
Chair, Board of Supervisors

cc: Senator Kamala Harris
Board of Supervisors
David Twa, County Administrator
Contra Costa County Library Commissioners
Paul Schlesinger, Alcalde and Fay
February 22, 2018

The Honorable Kamala Harris
United States Senate
40B Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

RE: Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) Reauthorization, Preserve Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) Funding

Dear Senator Harris:

On behalf of the Board of Supervisors of Contra Costa County, I write to request your support in reauthorizing the Library Technology and Services Act (LSTA) and preserving funding for the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) in the FY 2019 budget.

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Sincerely,

KAREN MITCHOFF
Chair, Board of Supervisors

cc: Senator Dianne Feinstein
Board of Supervisors
David Twa, County Administrator
Contra Costa County Library Commissioners
Paul Schlesinger, Alcalde and Fay
Contra Costa County Letterhead

Karen Mitchoff, Chair

March XX, 2018

The Honorable Edmund G. Brown Jr.
Governor, State of California
State Capitol, Room 1173
Sacramento CA 95814

Subject: Literacy Investment Augmentation

Dear Governor Brown:

Thank you for continuing to support adult literacy programs in California's public libraries, and for recognizing their importance in work force development. These programs serve those who are not eligible for standard adult education. Additionally, thank you for the proposed $2.5 million augmentation to the FY2018-19 budget. This augmentation will assist California’s public libraries to serve many more adults.

In California each year, over 20,000 adults learn to read through such programs. In Contra Costa County, over 200 adults learned to read through our adult literacy program - Project Second Chance. As has been consistently demonstrated, literacy is critical to be eligible for 21st Century jobs, let alone those that pay at least a living wage; and of course has a positive impact on the California economy.

Additionally educated and literate residents cause far less crime and pay more in taxes. As a result, a modest increase in this funding will increase the general fund as well as reducing costs to the criminal justice system and public assistance systems.

Thank you also to the senators and assembly members who represent Contra Costa County for their long term support of these programs. We look forward to working with you throughout the budget process to ensure its passage.

Again on behalf of all residents of the County, and especially those who want to learn to read, thank you for this proposed augmentation which will help California's public libraries to continue to grow the economy.

Sincerely
Karen Mitchoff
Chair

CC
Senator Bill Dodd
Senator Steve Glazer
Senator Nancy Skinner
Assemblymember Catherine Baker
Assemblymember Tim Grayson
Assemblymember Jim Frazier
Assemblymember Tony Thurmond

David Twa, County Administrator
Melinda Cervantes, County Librarian
Contra Costa County Library Commission