CONTRA COSTA COUNTY LIBRARY COMMISSION

AGENDA ATTACHMENT 3

MEETING DATE: Thursday, November 15, 2018

AGENDA ITEM #: 5.B.

ITEM: WORKING COMMITTEE REPORTS – LEGISLATIVE WORKING COMMITTEE

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

No Action Required.
October 10, 2018

Senator Diane Feinstein
United States Senate
331 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington D.C. 20510

Re: Support S3530 to Reauthorize Museum and Library Services Act (MSLA)

Dear Senator Feinstein,

As Chair of the Board of Supervisors of Contra Costa County, I write to request your assistance in reauthorizing the Museum and Library Services Act (MLSA) in S3530.

MLSA provides the only Federal funding through the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) for grant programs that are exclusively for libraries, supporting lifelong learning and innovative library programs throughout the nation. Over the years, Contra Costa County Library has been able to fund many such innovative programs through such grants.

Additionally, many states' Braille and Talking Book Libraries (BTBL) are dependent upon much of their funding from IMLS. In California BTBL receives 90% of its funding from IMLS.

Patronage of the Contra Costa County Library continues strong (over 3.5 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 the MLSA and its grant making capabilities be reauthorized this year so that public libraries can continue to serve the public and innovate.

Thank you for your continuing support of public libraries.

Sincerely,

Karen Mitchoff Chair

CC;

Senator Kamala Harris
Members Board of Supervisors
Contra Costa County Legislative Delegation
David Twa, County Administrator
Contra Costa County Library Commission
October 10, 2018

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United States senate
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Washington D.C. 20510

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