



Rhode Island Coalition of Library Advocates

March 20, 2017

Dear Senators Reed and Whitehouse; Representatives Cicilline and Langevin,

I write on behalf of the Rhode Island Coalition of Library Advocates (COLA) to thank you all for speaking out against President Trump's horrible 2018 budget proposal. At COLA, we recognize so many problems in this budget that we cannot list them all here. Diminishing or abandoning programs that make possible continued growth and improvement in social services, the arts and the humanities in favor of a military buildup justifiable only by a great effort at fear-mongering is unacceptable.

COLA is particularly worried about the fate of libraries in our communities, schools, colleges and government agencies. Our libraries, as you know, are where your constituents go for information, knowledge and lifelong learning; they are essential foundations of our democracy. The elimination of the Institute for Museum and Library Services, especially, would have an enormous negative impact on our state and communities nationwide. Please to do all you can to protect the IMLS and other loci of library resources such as the Departments of Education and of Labor, the Environmental Protection Agency and the National Endowment for the Humanities, in the federal budget.

COLA is a grass-roots library support group of 350 Rhode Islanders that seeks to improve the quality of life for Rhode Islanders by supporting libraries of all kinds. Through advocacy, education, and public awareness activities, COLA works to help improve library services throughout the state.

Please feel free to contact me for further information.

Again, thank you for your efforts.

Yours sincerely,

Howard Boksenbaum, Chair
RI Coalition of Library Advocates