



MICHIGAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

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April 19, 2024

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The Honorable Elissa Slotkin
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Slotkin,

We are writing on behalf of our members in Michigan to request your support for library funding in the FY 2025 Appropriations.

We urge support of at least \$232 million for the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) and at least \$50 million for the Innovative Approaches to Literacy (IAL). We also request that you sign the Dear Appropriator letters supporting funding for LSTA and IAL when they begin circulating.

The Michigan Library Association is a chapter of the American Library Association with a mission to lead the advancement of all Michigan libraries through advocacy, education and engagement. We have a membership of over 400 libraries, 1400 library professionals, and close to 2000 library trustees in rural, suburban and urban areas of Michigan. We support the growth and professional development of library professionals; provide consulting and technical assistance; advocate to our local and state legislators about the value of libraries; and strengthen the individuals who deliver cultural programming and who are leading local libraries in 21st century communities.

Every day, libraries play a vital role in our communities. Libraries offer no-fee access to essential information and services, enable patrons to achieve educational and career goals, help children and students learn to read and do homework, support veterans transitioning to civilian life, and assist small businesses and entrepreneurs to expand their opportunities. In brief, the local library makes our communities more attractive and supportive for everyone. For a modest investment, libraries provide a tremendous return.

The IAL program provides books, high-quality literacy training and evidence-based literacy programs to children and families in high-need communities. Administered through the Department of Education, IAL awards competitive grants to school libraries and national non-profits and is the only source of dedicated federal funding for school libraries. As study after study shows that literacy skills of children suffered during the pandemic, they need every bit of support that we can provide.

We thank you for supporting libraries across our state and urge the Representative to sign these letters to promote robust federal funding for libraries in FY 2025.

Deborah E. Mikula
Executive Director