



ANTHONY G. BROWN, MARYLAND ATTORNEY GENERAL

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## Attorney General Brown Sues Trump Administration to Protect Libraries and Museums

*Coalition of AGs Suing to Stop Dismantling of Federal Agencies That Support  
Libraries, Museums, Minority-Owned Businesses, and Workers*

**BALTIMORE, MD (April 4, 2025)** – Attorney General Anthony G. Brown today joined a coalition of 21 attorneys general in suing the Trump administration to stop the dismantling of three federal agencies that provide critical services and funding for public libraries and museums, small businesses, and workers nationwide.

In March, the Trump administration issued an Executive Order that would dismantle federal agencies created by Congress that collectively provide hundreds of millions of dollars for programs in every state. As a result of this Executive Order, the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) – one of the targeted agencies – has placed almost its entire staff on administrative leave and begun cutting hundreds of grants for state libraries and museums. The [lawsuit](#) filed by Attorney General Brown and the coalition seeks to stop the administration's dismantling of the IMLS and two other agencies on which millions of Americans rely, especially those in underserved communities.

“We’re bringing this lawsuit to help protect the resources Marylanders rely on—grants that keep libraries and museums open, federal financial assistance for small businesses, and labor dispute resolution services that help sustain America’s economy,” **said Attorney General Brown.** “We’re fighting to preserve these resources, especially in communities that have been historically underserved, because allowing the Trump administration to destroy them harms us all.”

This Executive Order is the administration’s latest attempt to dismantle federal agencies in defiance of Congress. Attorney General Brown and the coalition are seeking to stop the dismantling of three agencies targeted in the administration’s Executive Order:

1. The Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), which supports museums and libraries nationwide through grantmaking, research, and policy development;
2. The Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA), which promotes the growth and inclusion of small businesses in historically underserved communities through federal financial assistance programs; and

3. The Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service (FMCS), which promotes peaceful resolution of labor disputes.

As the coalition asserts in its lawsuit, dismantling these agencies will have devastating effects on communities throughout Maryland and the nation that rely on them to provide important services to the public, including funding their libraries, promoting minority-owned businesses, and protecting workers' rights.

In 2024, IMLS invested \$180 million in libraries nationwide under its Grants to States Program. The administration's action will threaten hundreds of library staff across the country that provide essential services to their communities.

In addition, the Trump administration has cut the staff of MBDA from 40 to just five individuals and has effectively stopped issuing new grants, hurting vulnerable small businesses across the country. The FMCS has slashed its staff from roughly 200 to fewer than 15 individuals and announced the termination of several of its core programs, making it harder for unionized workers to secure their rights.

The coalition argues that the Executive Order violates the Constitution and the Administrative Procedure Act by eliminating the programs of agencies without any regard for the laws and regulations that govern each source of federal funding. The coalition also argues that the president cannot decide to unilaterally override laws governing federal spending, and that this Executive Order unconstitutionally overrides Congress's power to decide how federal funds are spent.

In filing this lawsuit, Attorney General Brown joins the attorneys general of Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Hawai'i, Illinois, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Nevada, New Jersey, New York, New Mexico, Oregon, Rhode Island, Vermont, Washington, and Wisconsin.

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