



## SUFFOLK COUNTY LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer  
145 Pinelawn Road  
Suite 300 North  
Melville, NY 11747

Dear Senator Schumer,

We are the Suffolk County Library Association, a group that represents our county's library workers who work in communities that comprise over a million New Yorkers. I am writing to urge your continued support in protecting federal funding for libraries and museums.

Libraries across Suffolk County serve over one million residents and are essential to the educational, economic, and civic health of our communities. In 2024 alone, our libraries were visited over 6.6 million times, with more than 1.5 million people attending programs. Libraries provide access to broadband, support career/ skills development, advance literacy, offer emergency services, all the while fostering civic engagement.

We have long appreciated the support you have shown New York's libraries, and we know you understand the critical role they play in every community. However, uncertain times call for certain actions. Your leadership is needed now more than ever to protect the federal programs like IMLS that sustain our services – especially for those who rely on them most.

We understand that you are now serving as Minority Leader and that your party is currently in the opposition. Still, your power and influence are undeniable. You have long been a champion for New York, and your voice continues to shape national policy conversations. This is a moment when your advocacy can truly make a difference.

We were encouraged by Senator Gillibrand's recent bipartisan letter to Acting IMLS Director Keith Sonderling, advocating for full implementation of the Museum and Library Services Act and the timely distribution of the \$294.8 million in appropriated funds. We urge you to join her in speaking out and to ensure that these essential funds reach our libraries and museums without delay.

What has become our recent rally cry, "libraries are not luxuries – they are lifelines" is a sentiment that we know you echo. Federal investments through IMLS and the E-Rate program make possible the programs and access that so many Long Islanders depend on. Curtailing or cutting this funding would result in significant reduction in local services, higher community costs, and will disproportionately impact underserved New Yorkers.

As Minority Leader, we ask that you continue to use your platform to champion strong, sustained federal funding for libraries by defending IMLS and E-Rate, and by ensuring libraries are recognized as essential partners in any federal infrastructure, education, or recovery efforts.

The Suffolk County Library Association is a growing organization that represents over 400 members, and our library workers and supporters are highly engaged in their communities. Therefore, we are counting on your leadership to ensure that libraries have the federal support needed to keep serving and uplifting our communities, the lives of New Yorkers and many of those who voted for you.

We know you are a champion for public services and we are looking forward to seeing your leadership in advocating for us so that we can serve your constituents. Thank you for your attention to this urgent issue and for your continued service to the people of New York.

On behalf of the Suffolk County Library Association Board,

Anthony Giansante  
President  
Suffolk County Library Association