



Whereas, Montanans want convenient access to content, services, and information to achieve their personal, educational, and professional goals; and

Whereas, Montanans depend on libraries for connection, learning, and to improve their lives; and

Whereas, 40% of Montanans have library cards and Montana's public libraries were visited 3.5 million times last year; and

Whereas, all Montanans deserve fair and equal access to the same high-quality library services, regardless of where that individual lives in the state, or the country, or the size of their local library budget; and

Whereas, the purpose of the Museum and Library Services Act is to increase the capacity of libraries and museums to act as partners in supporting economic and community development, providing education and research, improving digital literacy skills, strengthening financial literacy and other types of literacy skills, and enhancing public safety and health awareness; and

Whereas, in the state of Montana, the Montana State Library receives these funds and uses them to increase the capacity of local libraries and reduce the cost of services used by local libraries to provide Montanans with access to content, services, and information; and

Whereas, the loss of these funds would result in a disruption of library services that would negatively impact the ability of Montanans to achieve their personal and professional goals; and

Whereas, the small and rural nature of the majority of Montana's libraries makes it nearly impossible for them to make up for the loss of funding; and

Whereas, the Museum and Library Services Act creates an opportunity for the people of Montana to pursue their right to life, liberty, and happiness through equal access to information, content, and services; and

Whereas, the current Museum and Library Services Act authorization was passed with bipartisan support in 2018 and signed by President Trump; and

Whereas, the current Museum and Library Services Act expires on September 30, 2025, and should be reauthorized;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Montana Library Association (MLA) urges members of Montana's congressional delegation to act in the best interest of Montanans to actively support the reauthorization of the Museum and Library Services Act; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that MLA calls upon the United States Congress to reauthorize the Museum and Library Services Act.

Adopted by the Montana Library Association

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Sarah Widger, President

March 27, 2025