
NEWS RELEASE

Judd Gregg

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

August 1, 2003

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Senate Passes Gregg-Sponsored Museums & Libraries Bill

Bill Increases State Grants to Libraries

WASHINGTON -- The Senate today passed a bipartisan bill, sponsored by Senator Judd Gregg, Chairman of the Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions, that will provide much needed federal support to our libraries and museums. Specifically, the "Museum and Library Services Act of 2003" would double the minimum amount states would receive in grants for their libraries. This means up to a 50% increase in federal library funds for New Hampshire, with some states receiving even more.

"Even with the rise of the 24-hour news cycle and internet blog sites, there will always be the need for a good book. This bill helps to ensure our libraries do not become a relic of the past, but remain an important part of our neighborhoods and our culture. Libraries in communities around the country are set to benefit from this bill," Chairman Gregg said.

"I am also pleased that this bill will coordinate its action with the school library provisions of the No Child Left Behind Act, as well as allow funds to be used to recruit new professionals into the field of library science," said Chairman Gregg.

New Hampshire State Librarian, Michael York said, "We in the New Hampshire libraries are very grateful to Senator Gregg for his leadership on this important legislation for libraries. The funds provided by this bill help New Hampshire libraries provide exceptional service to the citizens of the state. We greatly appreciate all that Senator Gregg has done to see that New Hampshire gets the funding it needs to make this happen."

The "Museum and Library Services Act of 2003" has enjoyed broad bipartisan support and its list of cosponsors include Senators Reed (D-RI), Frist (R-TN), Kennedy (D-MA), & Enzi (R-WY).

Museum and Library Services Act of 2003

-Bill Summary-

Continues federal support of libraries and museums through the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS).

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Authorizes a doubling of the minimum state allotment under the Grants to State Library Agencies Program. That provision allows for an increase, if appropriated, of 50% for New Hampshire's federal library allotment under the law.

Increases the indemnity limits in the Arts and Artifacts Indemnity Act, facilitating the international exchange and display of works of art, books, rare documents, artifacts and other published materials.

Requires that the Director, where appropriate, ensure that the library activities of the IMLS are coordinated with the school library provisions of the No Child Left Behind Act.

Supports efforts to recruit more librarians by allowing funds to be used for the recruitment of persons in library and information science.

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