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| **Dear BTBL patrons, family members and caretakers, and other concerned stakeholders, This is a follow up to previous federal funding status news we shared. We wanted to provide an update on the abrupt loss of Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) funding that occurred in April, which represents 90% of the Braille and Talking Book Library’s operating budget. It appears that the State Library will receive federal funding for the 2025 fiscal year due to court actions requiring IMLS to fulfil its Congressionally-mandated obligations. However, the draft 2026 federal budget bill pending in Congress currently provides no ongoing funding for the IMLS and, instead, contains a one-time allocation of only $6 million that would be used to close the agency and several others at the beginning of 2026. We will be looking at ways to make our critical service sustainable for our patrons over the long term. As we assess our funding for the future, our priority is to minimize any inconvenience to our readers. I will keep you informed as the situation continues to evolve. Sincerely,Mike L. Marlin, Director, and the entire dedicated staff of the California Braille and Talking Book Library** |

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