November 22, 2019

The American Association of Law Libraries (AALL) is pleased to endorse the President’s nominee R. Crosby Kemper III for confirmation as the next Director of the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS). We ask the Committee to promptly advance Mr. Kemper’s nomination and urge the full Senate to take up the nomination without delay.

AALL believes Mr. Kemper is well-positioned to lead IMLS and promote its mission to enable and inspire libraries and museums to promote broad public access to lifelong learning, innovation, and cultural and civic participation.

As director of the Kansas City Public Library (KCPL) since 2005, he has transformed the library system into a vibrant community resource. His work was honored in 2008 with the National Medal for Libraries from IMLS for KCPL’s Books to Go early literacy project.

As a strong supporter of greater access to knowledge, Mr. Kemper recently served as Chairman of the Board of the national Schools, Health & Libraries Broadband Coalition, which supports open, affordable, high-capacity broadband connections for anchor institutions such as libraries and their surrounding communities.

Mr. Kemper will bring his skills as a business leader to IMLS, having previously served as CEO for the UMB Financial Corporation in Kansas City. He also offers his experience as a volunteer leader of several cultural institutions, having served on the Boards of the Kansas City Symphony, the Black Archives of Mid-America, and the Thomas Jefferson Foundation, which operates Monticello.

Mr. Kemper’s background and leadership experiences make him well-suited to lead IMLS. We respectfully request the Senate to approve his nomination without delay.

Sincerely,

Michelle Cosby
President