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Mr. President:

Today I am introducing the Museum Services Amendments of 1979. This bill would extend the Museum Services Act for two years and, at the same time, would insure that the Institute of Museum Services, and no other agency, would be responsible for establishing a proper system of grant application review.

Last week I introduced legislation extending the National Foundation on the Arts and Humanities Act of 1965 for five years. Included in this legislation was five-year extension of the Institute of Museum Services. However, since that time, there has been some discussion over the proper location of the Institute. Several alternative locations have been suggested.

Since at this time there is no consensus as to the proper location of the Institute, I am suggesting with the legislation I introduce today that the Institute, in its present location in the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, be extended for only two years. This will give the Institute, which has only been in existence since 1976, further time to strengthen its programs of museum support.

During this two-year period, our Subcommittee on Education, Arts, and Humanities plans to conduct extensive oversight into all Federal museum programs, to determine whether there is any overlap in these programs and to explore options for the best Federal role in aiding our nation's museums. As part of this oversight process, I intend to continue discussions with all of the Federal officials involved in museum programs and to sollicit their views on the proper location and role for the Institute. My own view continues to be that the Smithsonian

Institution, which already has the responsibility for carrying out the provisions of the Museum Services Act of 1976, and the Institute of Museum Services should join together with the result that the Smithsonian Institution would become the nation's museums' museum, helping museums across our nation with conservation, exhibitions, museumology and fundraising techniques.