

40 Lochaven Road  
Bristol, CT 06010  
March 1, 2011

Senator Toni Harp  
Legislative Office Building, Room 2700  
Hartford, CT 06106-1591

Dear Senator Harp,

I am concerned about the damage that Gov. Malloy's proposed budget cuts will do to our libraries. His proposed budget cuts call for cutting \$281,000 from the Connecticut system of vans that transports books between libraries. Another proposal is for cutting \$704,000 from the Connecticard program which allows residents from our state to borrow from all the public libraries in the state with the lending library being reimbursed.

These programs are used by students, business persons working on business plans, writers researching materials for their next book, and people trying to update their skills as they search for a job. Connecticut's highly educated citizens want and expect access to good library materials. Good libraries help grow Connecticut's economy.

Many of our libraries run marvelous book discussion groups, and the librarian may need to locate 10-30 copies of the same book for a discussion. Half of the people in the book discussion groups in Bristol are seniors on a fixed income, and these programs keep their minds sharp, active, and alert.

Not every town in Connecticut is fortunate enough to have a large, first class library. By sharing materials through both interlibrary loans and the Connecticard program, people from poor or rural locations gain access to resources outside their own town.

Libraries have been experiencing many budget cuts since they do not provide a "mandated" service. But the libraries are providing even more services during these challenging economic times. I'm a frequent library user, and I have never seen our libraries busier than during the last several years. It seems like a "penny wise, pound foolish" idea to cut such important programs as the Connecticut vans and the Connecticard program which are used by so many Connecticut residents.

Sincerely,



Constance Grandy