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Members of the Education Committee:

Good day, my name is Carl DeMilia and I am the President of the Connecticut Library Association and the Director of the New Milford Public Library.

I am taking this opportunity to write in opposition to HB6357, in particular, Section 26, the proposed changes to Connecticut Reimbursement to libraries.

The Connecticut program has been in existence since the 1970's and promotes voluntary statewide reciprocal borrowing which allows Connecticut residents the ability to borrow materials from libraries throughout the state.

During its existence, Connecticut card has allowed Connecticut residents to freely borrow materials which may not be available in their hometown library. This promotes free and equal access to information and reading materials. Capping or reducing these reimbursements will stifle or kill equal access.

I urge you to reconsider HB6357, Section 26 and to vote against it. While the funds are meager in the grand scheme of the State budget, they go a long way to encourage this continued cooperation between libraries on behalf of the citizens of Connecticut.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my thought on this matter.

Carl DeMilia
2/19/13