



P.O. Box 75 • 234 Court Street • Middletown, Connecticut 06457  
Phone: 860-346-2444 • Fax: 860-344-9199 • [www.ctlibraryassociation.org](http://www.ctlibraryassociation.org)

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Please accept my testimony on behalf of the Connecticut Library Association, Connecticut's professional organization of over 1,000 librarians, library staff, trustees and friends who work together to improve library service in our state.

I want to thank Representative Brian Sear for his assistance and support of this proposed bill. Also, on behalf of the organization I want to thank the members of the General Law Committee for scheduling this public hearing and taking testimony.

My remarks today will be brief in order to allow my library colleague to speak in more detail concerning aspects of this issue affecting Connecticut's libraries.

Publishers and libraries have long had a mutually beneficial relationship regarding the availability and access to books. Now as publishing is changing with technology, publishers are having a difficult time addressing our concerns.

You will hear testimony on many aspects of this issue. However the key issue is equity of access, a cornerstone of library service. Today, publishers do not provide libraries with access to their full list of electronic books. They further hinder access with a variety of restrictive circulation models. Combine these factors with pricing which is set higher than retail and what remains is a situation which inhibits equity of access and which we believe to be discriminatory.

We are asking that Connecticut's libraries have access to publisher's full title lists at pricing levels consistent with that of the current consumer market.

In accomplishing this, Connecticut's libraries will be able to fulfill the promise of equal access for all citizens of the state.

Submitted by:

Carl R. DeMilia  
President, Connecticut Library Association  
Director, New Milford Public Library