

March 3, 2015

Dear Legislators:

I'm was upset to learn that Governor Malloy's proposed budget for the next fiscal year completely eliminates state funding for the Connecticut Library Consortium. In addition, Governor's Bill No. 942 would end up requiring new legislation before the CLC could ever be funded again.

As a public school library media specialist in Connecticut for the past 16 years, the CLC has been a valuable resource for me. The discounts I have received through the CLC has saved me thousands of dollars in purchasing materials for my school library. I've had many years with slim or no budgets to purchase new books for my school library. In those years especially I was grateful for the CLC discount, which is up to 40 percent for many of the books I just purchased.

I just this week used my CLC discount to turn in a book order to Baker & Taylor, one of the vendors CLC negotiates with for a discount. I saved approximately \$400 on an order of over \$1,600. When I just started working in a new district this past November, one of the first things I did was to join the CLC so I could start to take advantage of its discount.

Not only has the CLC saved me and my students thousands of dollars over the years, it has also helped provide quality professional education for school librarians. The CLC will once again this year be a co-sponsor of our upcoming Connecticut Association of School Librarians spring conference. The CLC has also sponsored school librarian regional roundtables I have both hosted and traveled to participate in.

The impact of eliminating state funding for CLC would be huge, not just on myself, but on students and teachers throughout our state. I appreciate the fact that the governor and the legislators have difficult decisions to make when it comes to presenting a balanced budget. But with so many of our school libraries struggling for adequate funding, it would be devastating to not be able to rely on the CLC to continue to serve us.

David Bilmes

David Bilmes

Library Media Specialist

Oxford High School

Oxford, CT