

March 2, 2015

Members of the Appropriations Committee:

Gov. Malloy's proposed budget eliminates funding for major library programs, including Connecticard, the Connecticut Library Consortium, and Grants for Public Libraries. I am writing to oppose this and ask you to restore that funding in your final budget.

Our public libraries are already struggling due to local budget cuts combined with increased expenses. In addition, residents rely on libraries during tough economic times. I manage a large staff in Hartford, where for many people the library is their closest location for ESL instruction or computer lab usage. In my town (Manchester), where our main library is too small, we rely on the Connecticard program to bring the books we can't fit on our shelves. Libraries provide an important service and should be protected, not attacked.

Please do the right thing and restore funding to our libraries. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Douglas G. Burchards

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