

## Governor's Proposed Budget – CT. State Library

I am writing in opposition to the proposal to reduce the budget of the CT. State Library, particularly funding for Connecticard, Grants to Public Libraries and the elimination of the statutes that establish these programs.

When librarians from other States come to Connecticut they are amazed that we have statewide reciprocal borrowing. In other states libraries do not honor non-resident patrons and if they do it is on a for fee basis. Connecticut's small reimbursement to its libraries for cooperating and continuing a program which has such benefit to every citizen should not be eliminated.

Elimination of the Grants to Public Libraries and the statute which established primary public libraries would be a disaster. Again, although the amount of the grants is small, libraries may use the funds to supplement already distressed budgets. A designated principal public library is one that provides equal access to all without assessing fees. Again, this would be highly detrimental to the citizens of CT.

Finally, eliminating statutes that provide such services to all residents would place CT.'s libraries in a position which would severely undermine their existence.

I would encourage you to continue funding these valuable programs and to leave the statutes in place.

Let's not diminish the excellent work that our libraries provide each and every day. Instead, Let's find a way to support what they do since their work is so important.

Sincerely,

Carl R. DeMilia

