

March 3, 2015

Dear Distinguished Members of the Appropriations Committee,

I serve as Director of Library and Educational Technology at Manchester Community College, one of the largest community colleges in the CSCU system. Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony in response to Governor Malloy's proposal to eliminate funding for the "Cooperating Library Service Unit Program", better known as Connecticut Library Consortium. MCC has been a member of CLC for many years, and we depend on them to negotiate deeper discounts on Library supplies and subscriptions than we could ever manage independently. Given steep cuts to operating funds, we depend on CLC to stretch limited dollars further so that essential services provided to our students and faculty aren't sacrificed.

For example, last fiscal year CLC saved Manchester Community College \$7,493.00 on books, library supplies and database subscriptions. We take good advantage of generous discounts from Baker & Taylor and Demco, and our subscription to JobNow, which provides live interactive help for job seekers, is appreciated and well-used by students and community members who are looking for work. The Library community depends on CLC to tackle the large scale initiatives that individual libraries are unable to manage on their own, ones that ultimately advance library services in our state.

CLC is an effective and responsible steward of the state appropriate they receive, and I urge you to restore the funding eliminated by Gov. Malloy in his proposed budget.

Sincerely yours,
Debbie Herman
Manchester Community College
Manchester, CT