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Connecticut General Assembly
Appropriations Committee
Legislative Office Building
300 Capitol Avenue
Hartford, CT 06106

Honorable Members of the Appropriations Committee of the Connecticut General Assembly:

I am writing to you in reference to Governor Malloy's proposed FY 15-16 Budget proposal AND Governor's Bill No. 942, AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE GOVERNOR CONCERNING EDUCATION. The Governor's proposed budget eliminates funding for the Connecticut Library Consortium (CLC), a cooperative library service unit. In addition, as written, Governor's Bill No. 942 would repeal Conn. Gen. Stat. Sec. 11-9e that defines state-supported cooperative library service units.

Each year, the State of Connecticut invests \$332,500 in the Connecticut Library Consortium (CLC). This investment yields over \$7.1 million dollars in savings for Connecticut libraries annually! CLC is a model for statewide cooperation. Each year, CLC leverages the power of over 800 member libraries to negotiate up to 72% off list price on products and services for libraries serving your constituents.

At the Stratford Library, where I have the privilege to serve as the Assistant Director, our community benefits from over \$61,000 in CLC negotiated savings each year! Translated another way, this is one Connecticut municipality saving one fifth of the \$332,500 allocated to CLC annually. Through the negotiating efforts of CLC, the Stratford Library:

- Saves more than \$53,000 on the purchase of books and materials each year.
- Provides 24/7 Access to Tumblebooks, an online resource for early readers, which is heavily promoted in the Stratford Public Schools.
- Offers access to JobNow a tool which is used to enhance the efforts of Connecticut citizens who are unemployed or under-employed.

The impact of the savings negotiated by the CLC on our total budget is enormous! Without these discounts, the Stratford Library and libraries all over Connecticut will be forced to use our limited staff resources to negotiate individual contracts and discounts with vendors. The Stratford Library and libraries all over Connecticut will lose purchasing power. The Stratford Library and libraries all over Connecticut will be forced to cut services that we provide to residents from all walks of life. I respectfully ask that the Appropriations Committee reinstate the \$332,500 in funding for the Connecticut Library Consortium (CLC). I respectfully ask that the Legislature reject any efforts to repeal Conn. Gen. Stat. Sec. 11-9e.

Thank you for your efforts on behalf of the people of our great state.

Sheri Szymanski