

The Honorable Governor Dannel Malloy  
State of Connecticut/State Capitol  
210 Capitol Avenue  
Hartford, CT 06106

Dear Governor Malloy:

It is essential that you reconsider your intent to eliminate the legislation that makes the Connecticut Library Consortium ("CLC") and Connecticard possible. While funding them under the current economic situation may not be an option, retaining the capacity for these two supports to local library service is a must.

CLC is not a state grant subsidy but provides an organization that gives member libraries the ability to maximize and extend the face value of municipal funds. The economy of scale through group purchasing provides leverage to stretch local dollars to nearly twice the budgeted amount for books, media and library supplies. CLC's coordinated negotiation yields discounts and benefits for database subscriptions and a range of other offerings. This is a "best practices" demonstration of state support that makes local services worth more far more than the face value invested in them.

In addition, the CLC Jobs website offers *free access* to postings for job openings in Connecticut libraries. Both job seekers and local libraries can compete on a national level, an exposure not likely matched by other state offices and ensuring attracting highly qualified candidates.

Connecticard is a limited substitute for a statewide library card. Reciprocal recognition of libraries across the state provides a service that makes Connecticut the envy of other small states. If funding cannot occur at present to reimburse towns for their efforts, it is essential the mechanism be maintained to allow for the future return of the services.

Thank you for your consideration,

Elspeth Lydon, Director  
Plumb Memorial Library  
Shelton Library System