

RE: CT State budget funding for Libraries

From: Roberta La Monaca, Director of the Prosser Public Library in Bloomfield, CT

Date: March 3, 2015

I am writing to express concern about the proposed budget for The CT State Library and the CT Library Consortium. As recent news has stated (see Hartford magazine, March 2015), libraries are the go to place in our communities. They are there for EVERYONE, regardless of age, race, or economic ability. The funds that would be cut from the state budget would directly impact on the ability of local libraries to continue offering the services that are currently being provided.

CLC provides support in the way of group discounts, educational opportunities and job recruitment in a manner that saves monies for all the towns that participate. Governor's Bill No. 942, AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE GOVERNOR CONCERNING EDUCATION, would repeal Conn. Gen. Stat. Sec. 11-9e that defines state-supported cooperative library service units - the official terminology for CLC. If this bill is enacted, new legislation would be required before CLC could ever be funded again. Please do not do this.

While the state contemplates a budget cut, my local government has already asked me to reduce my budget by \$15,000. A reduction in Connecticard reimbursement would only increase the negative impact on my ability to assist Bloomfield library patrons.

Please reconsider.