

Members of the Appropriations Committee:

I am the director of the East Hartford Public Libraries and I am writing to urge you not to cut funding to the Connecticut Library Consortium. The CLC is all that we have left of the Cooperating Library Service Units program. My library is in an economically distressed municipality; my town can only set aside 0.6% of their budget for my library materials. Without the discounts I receive through the state-negotiated contracts through CLC, I would not be able to provide the level of service to my community that I provide now. Last year my savings through CLC discounts totaled over \$19,000.00! Losing the support of CLC will have drastic consequences on the people who live in my community; people who are truly in need of library services. It will also impact every single resident of the state in a negative way because libraries are the most democratic institutions we have, providing free access and services to all people regardless of age, education level, economic standing, or religion.

I understand these are difficult times and you have difficult decisions to make. I implore you to keep funding to CLC. Connecticut libraries have been recognized nationally for their cooperative efforts. Please don't destroy one of the most valuable community resources we have. Thank you for your consideration.

Susan Hansen

Susan M. Hansen
Director of Libraries
East Hartford Public Library
50 Chapman Place
East Hartford, CT 06108
860-290-4340
Cell: 860-751-4169
shansen@easthartfordct.gov