

To the Appropriations Committee:

My name is Molly McCue, and I am a longtime resident of the wonderful state of CT.

I am urging you to restore all funding to Connecticut's libraries in your revised budget.

The budget proposed by Connecticut Gov. Dannel Malloy eliminates funding for essential library services like Connecticard, the Connecticut Library Consortium, and Grants to Public Libraries. Without these services, state and local library services will be severely diminished and patrons will lose basic, vital services like ILL and the return-to-any-library option. Library staff will lose training and professional resources that help them serve the public.

Gov. Malloy has repeatedly tried to defund Connecticard and its Connecticar, which returns books to their home libraries. Without it, and with the elimination of ILL in general, patrons will be restricted to their own public libraries, which will in turn be even more underfunded due to grants being eliminated.

This will squander a beautiful, essential public resource. Instead of taking away from our libraries, we need to enhance them -- Connecticut residents need to have access to the diverse materials needed in order to be the best and the brightest in our nation. In a time when residents are also having to cut back, libraries are more important than ever.

Please do what is right for your state's residents and restore all funding to Connecticut's libraries.

Thank you,

Molly McCue
Manchester, CT