

Testimony
To
Appropriations
Committee
March 3, 2015

To the Appropriations Committee,

My name is Peter Ciparelli. I am the library director of the Killingly Public Library and this is my written testimony concerning the proposed budget cuts to the State Library budget. Northeastern Connecticut has many small libraries who serve their communities with budgets that would be sorely impacted by the elimination of funding for Connecticard, the Connecticut Library Consortium, and Grants to Public Libraries that is being proposed in the Governor's budget. The public library is an indispensable part of our community, and they are especially needed by our citizens in hard economic times. Connecticard reimbursements and the yearly Public Library Grant help these smaller libraries offer more materials and services to their citizens. CLC helps local libraries with training, material sharing, expertise, and especially discounts. Because of the bargaining power of CLC the budget resources of the libraries go much farther. For example, Baker and Taylor (a book and media vendor) offers 46% off trade books to Connecticut libraries because of the multi-year contract the CLC has negotiated for them. Without these discounts the basic service of books, films, DVDs, free Internet, story times and programs for children and teens, lifelong learning programs for adults, free tax preparation, reference help and more would be difficult to provide with a reduced budget. The Connecticut Humanities Council has been a wonderful organization to work with, also. They have provided many programs for both children and adults here in Killingly over the past ten years.

If the provisions in Governor's Bill No. 942, AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE GOVERNOR CONCERNING EDUCATION that repeal these programs are enacted, new legislation would be required before these programs could ever be funded again. The public library is the most democratic institution in our society; please do not take this funding away from your public libraries. Thank you for allowing me to submit this testimony.

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