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Subject:

PLEASE DON'T CUT FUNDING TO CONNECTICUT LIBRARIES

Connecticut's Libraries serve virtually every citizen in the State in a variety of ways with the best bang for the buck. In particular to the proposed budget:

The Legislature should restore \$2M in funding to Connecticut, Cooperating Library Service Units (CLC) and Grants to Public Libraries

Restore \$1.25M (up from \$950,000 in past budget) to Connecticut

Restore \$500,000 (up from \$332,00 in past budget) to Cooperating Library Service Units (CLC)

Restore \$250,000 (up from \$193,391 in past budget) to Grants to Public Libraries

\$2M in library funding will save CT's libraries and taxpayers over \$75M annually. For every state tax dollar invested, CT's libraries and taxpayers will receive a \$37.50 public service return on investment (375%)

Without these restorations, the CT's libraries will go from coordination to chaos

Cutting Connecticut means CT residents will no longer be able to borrow from any public library across the state and local libraries will be forced to shut their doors to their neighbors. The savings CT residents realized through Connecticut (\$68M in 2014 by borrowing 4.5 million items from libraries across the state) will vanish

Slashing Cooperating Library Service Units (CLC) means the Connecticut Library Consortium (CLC), formed by the merger of four CLSUs saving CT taxpayers through coordinated services and efficiencies, will be crippled. Without state funding, CLC will severely hampered in its mission of saving public libraries and taxpayers over \$7.1M annually by coordinating the purchase of books and other products for the state's public, school and academic libraries.

Eliminating Grants to Public Libraries hurts the people who need their library the most—CT residents who live in our urban areas where our public libraries struggle to provide basic library programs and services such as literacy (reading, financial and digital), access to government services and so much more. Eliminating the law that guarantees adequate local funding will throw our local public libraries into chaos not knowing if funding will be available, severely restricting access to information and quite probably leading to public libraries shutting their doors for good.

Respectfully,
Kris Hoffman