

Aviva Luria  
52 West Prospect St  
New Haven, Connecticut 06515

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Dear Governor Malloy:

I am writing to express my hope that you will reconsider funding for the state's libraries. While I understand how difficult it must be to allocate funds and balance a state budget, the small budgets of the state's libraries should not be on the table. Already, libraries have had to cut hours and staff, impacting their ability to serve their communities. And in these difficult economic times, more and more families rely on their public libraries for books and access to the internet and other media, as well as public programs for children and adults.

I have brought my son to various libraries in our community since he was too young to walk. Ever since he attended a daycare center in Orange, we've visited the Orange library, despite not being residents. I joined the Friends of Orange Library as a token of my support for their wonderful library and my gratitude for being able to bring my son to programs there and take out books, as well.

One of the wonderful things about living in Connecticut (and I am not a Connecticut native) is the cohesion of the library system and the ability of a resident of one town to take out books from another. My family has very much enjoyed this privilege. Visiting libraries in different towns, whether Orange, Woodbridge, Hamden, or Branford, has opened up new worlds to my son and has given him an appreciation for libraries and books that I believe will last a lifetime.

Libraries are an invaluable community resource. They offer crucial services to adults, families, and children that are not available elsewhere, provide gathering spaces for community groups, and offer important learning opportunities. Library funding is absolutely crucial. To take money from our libraries is to harm our communities and our state. Please don't let that happen.

Sincerely yours,

Aviva Luria