

Dear Legislators,

In the State Library budget, the Inter-library loan service and related payments for the programs titled "Connecticar" and "Connecticard" are cut to zero in the Malloy budget proposal. These funds are vital and need to be restored, and here is why:

Local library book acquisition budgets, due to the economic downturn, have been cut to the bone. Plumb Library in Shelton has been particularly hard hit in recent years. **The book budget alone was cut nearly 50 % for each of the past three years, impacting library users of all ages.**

The Inter-library loan service is a genius concept and a real life-saver for libraries of all sizes and budgets. Here's how it works:

Using the online Bibliomation catalog or the State Library's IConn system, a local Shelton library patron can request a title from virtually any library in the state system. A state-funded van travels between towns, dropping off and returning the books loaned from other local libraries. It's a great example of regional cooperation among local libraries and it's only possible with the state funding that is now at risk in the Malloy budget proposal.

This program makes a small community library like Shelton's virtually as vast as the New York Public Library. A Shelton library patron has access to thousands of books and other materials that would otherwise be unavailable.

Our local libraries are the crown jewels of our communities' cultural life, offering programs for all ages, public internet access, downloadable books -both audio and ebook format, databases for research and self help and the aforementioned access to the holdings of libraries in 169 towns.

I'm not a library professional; I'm a patron, and I value the services of our local libraries very highly. I want to add my voice to the thousands of library users and **ask you to be an advocate for the state library**

program and in particular the restoration of funding for the Inter-library loan services.

Thank you again for taking the time to listen to your constituents on crucial fiscal issues. I hope we can count on your support for restoration of the funds needed for the State Inter-library loan services.

Sincerely,

Andrew J. Mollo

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