

March 4, 2015

To Whom It May Concern at the Appropriations Committee,
(APPtestimony@cga.ct.gov)

I was greatly disappointed to find that the new budget proposes to eliminate funding for Connecticard (the vital program that allows Connecticut library patrons to borrow material at public libraries throughout the state,) Connecticut Library Consortium collaborative membership to strengthen small libraries ability to serve users, and Grants to Public Libraries.

I continue to support full funding of the Interlibrary loan system program throughout the state of Connecticut. This is especially important in the rural and isolated towns in northeast CT because we do not have large volumes of books nor mass transportation to enable citizens to travel to the larger libraries. Therefore, it is essential that books can travel to our patrons residing in small towns. The proposed cuts will directly affect our libraries and our community. Our community has come to depend on these essential (free of charge) resources. Our taxpayers deserve to continue to enjoy this important benefit of residing in Connecticut.

Please do the right thing and save CT Library Funding.

Gwen D. Haaland, Ph. D.

Employee, Willington Public Library
Friend of Babcock Public Library, Ashford
Ashford Conservation Commission, Appointee