



Appropriations Committee  
Connecticut State Legislature

February 11, 2016

Dear Committee Members,

It has come to my attention that Governor Malloy is recommending that all funding (\$71,000) to CRIS Radio be eliminated. The result would be the inability for CRIS Radio to continue to offer this invaluable service free of charge to those who, because of vision loss, learning disability or physical handicap are unable to read printed material.

As a library professional for 16 years and the current President of the Connecticut Library Association, the fact that the State Legislature would disenfranchise this group of individuals and effectively prevent them from having equal access to news, information, and recreational reading materials is outrageous. To save such a small amount of money on the backs of those who already face many struggles just getting through daily life is shameful. As with public libraries, access to this information must not be based on an individual's ability to pay.

One of my best friends, Kristine, was born legally blind. Throughout her life, until she passed away from cancer at age 36, she never let her disability stop her. Despite her difficulty with reading print and her inability to drive, she graduated from college and maintained a full time job with the State of Connecticut, first for the Board of Education for the Blind and then for the State Liquor Control Commission and finally she worked for the State Office of Policy and Management. She was able to do this because of programs that assisted those with vision impairments.

If you allow this cut to go through you will be negatively impacting the lives of people like my friend. People who give back to our state every day. People who, despite difficulties most of us can't imagine, are productive citizens. People who deserve the same access to information as everyone else regardless of their abilities or ability to pay.

Please support CRIS Radio, and people like my friend Kris, by voting no to this cut!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Beth Crowley".

Beth Crowley  
CLA President  
Madison, CT