



57 New Haven Avenue, Milford, CT, 06460 | 203-783-3290 | milfordlibrary.org

February 16, 2016

APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE PUBLIC HEARING

Re: H.B.5044, Library support for independent Connecticut Humanities funding

Distinguished Committee members:

My name is Christine Angeli and I am the Director of the Milford Public Library. I am here today to speak in support of maintaining the independent, merit-based Connecticut Humanities re-grant pool.

Since 2003, Connecticut Humanities has helped the Milford Public Library provide numerous reading programs and book discussions for over 350 children and their families. Their *Family Book Voyages* programs provided caregivers and their children ages 6 – 10 the opportunity to read, share and discuss more than 18 classic and contemporary titles. The *Reading Adventures* programs allowed 3rd, 4th and 5th graders the opportunity to use great literature, such as the classic, *A Wrinkle in Time* by Madeline L'Engle, to talk to each other about issues and themes that are important in their lives. Next month, again thanks to CTH funding, we will host *Tales from Around the World*, a series designed to engage families and children with multicultural stories and share new ways to enjoy books and literature together.

Numerous studies have shown that educational success is directly related to strong

early literacy skills and literature rich home environments; CTH support enables us to provide these skills and resources to our community.

Most recently, the Milford Library has been the recipient of a Connecticut Humanities Quick Grant, which will allow us to provide programming for an all ages, preschool to senior, community reads program. Our community of approximately 53,000 residents will be engaged in a myriad of age appropriate programs which will include visits to all our elementary schools by an award winning children's author, historical lectures and musical programs, and multicultural programs focusing on our own local history.

Our public library cannot present these programs alone. In our particular community, all our program funding is supported through volunteer efforts. The benefits that CTH funding provides to our community, whether it be sending families home with books so their children have access to quality literature, promoting discussion groups that stimulate and promote discussion and educational inquiry, or providing cultural programs that entertain and educate our community, are invaluable.

Please maintain the independent, competitive, merit-based CT Humanities funding. By doing so, you provide assistance to numerous communities and organizations, and thus enable all our Connecticut residents to be exposed to quality cultural and educational resources.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Christine Angeli

Director, Milford Public Library