March 1, 2019

Sarah Briggs  
Library/Media Specialist  
Jonathan Law High School  
Milford, CT  
RE: Public Hearing Wednesday, March 6th-State Library Budget  
Governor’s Bill #7148

Dear Members of the Appropriations Committee,

I am writing to ask that you accept the State Library’s recommendation to restore the Connecticut Library Consortium’s funding to $332,000. As a school librarian, my budget has remained stagnant while expenses for our databases, books, software, and school supplies have risen every year. Thanks to CLC’s discounts, I have been able to stretch my budget enough to minimize the impact on student learning and continue to provide my students and faculty with a wide range of quality materials and services they need for their coursework. I am not alone in this experience; CLC saves libraries and schools over seven million dollars each year. This astounding return on investment will no longer be possible without action on your part; without state funding, CLC will cease to exist within three years.

I initially heard about CLC as a brand-new school librarian through their roundtable offerings. A school librarian is frequently the only librarian in the building, which can be a little isolating at times. I joined a couple of roundtables geared towards services for young adults and education, grateful that there were several options that were both local and free. Happily united with other librarians in similar roles, I began to build a network of professionals I could learn from and bounce ideas off of. I realized that the more I talk to and learn from other librarians, the better able I am to help my students grow as learners and readers and prepare themselves for the rest of their lives. For me personally and professionally, finding those roundtables was a lifesaver. In one year alone, CLC provided free or low-cost professional development to 1,765 library staff members. CLC nurtures and develops professionals and gives them the tools they need to better serve their patrons. CLC is a smart investment and one that hundreds of members statewide are counting on.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

Sarah Briggs