

To: [APPTestimony@cga.ct.gov](mailto:APPTestimony@cga.ct.gov)

(Attn: State Representative Patricia Dillon, State Senator Gary Winfield, my city legislators)

**Regarding HB-6439 Support for Connecticut's Library institutions**

From: Caitlin Augusta, New Haven, CT, librarian in Stratford, CT

When Governor Lamont asked that libraries stay open as essential businesses, libraries stepped up to provide services to senior citizens, to families, to small business owners, and to the economically disadvantaged. If you're the parent of a middle schooler, the library might be the only place you can print your child's homework. If you're a senior citizen, visiting the Library is a weekly chance for enrichment and socialization. If you're a job seeker, the Library may be the only place you can go to apply for work, file for unemployment, or print tax forms. **For many Connecticut residents, the Library has been a vital link to normalcy, to friendly faces, and to community services during the pandemic.**

**And now**, the Connecticut Legislature faces the extraordinary challenge of allocating funds in the second year of the pandemic. As all of us are asked to do more with less, we need more avenues for savings, and the most important one for libraries is the Connecticut Library Consortium.

**1. Please create a functional budget for the Connecticut Library Consortium.**

- They use resources wisely and bargain for deals that save Connecticut libraries more than **7 million dollars annually**. Libraries can buy books, supplies, and furniture at a discount, saving money for all Connecticut taxpayers. **Without CLC, libraries have to pay higher prizes, and those costs are passed on to taxpayers. Libraries are able to do more with less, thanks to CLC.**
- Currently, the state legislature is only funding CLC at 15%, a **crippling blow for the good work they do for all Connecticut libraries and their patrons.**
- Please restore CLC's budget to a functional level.

**2. Cuts to the Connecticut State Library affect federal matching funds.**

- The proposed \$200,000 in cuts will lead to a loss of \$97,000 in matching federal funds. Please restore the Connecticut State Library budget.

Thank you for your attention,  
Caitlin Augusta