

February 26, 2021

**Elementary and Secondary Education Subcommittee of the Appropriations Committee**  
**Re: HB-6439**

Written testimony by Peter Gavin Ferriby, Ph.D., Chair of the Council of Connecticut Academic Library Directors, and University Librarian of Sacred Heart University, Fairfield, CT

On behalf of the Council of Connecticut Academic Library Directors (CCALD), I urge the Subcommittee to restore the Governor's proposed \$200,000 cuts. These cuts would trigger the Federal Maintenance of Effort (MOE) statute and result in the loss of an additional \$97,000 from Federal Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), and further erode the State Library's funding.

This funding is critical to continue state contracts for licensed databases for the academic portion of *researchIT CT*, which provides online access to essential information resources for all higher education students in the state. Specifically, these databases provide crucial support for teaching and learning Nursing, Education, and Business Entrepreneurship. For example, Sacred Heart University contributes substantial numbers of nurses and educators every year to sustain vital educational and health services in Connecticut, and our Business Entrepreneurship graduates have gone on to found and grow firms that contribute to our vital segments of our state's economy. For example:

- Over 20 Sacred Heart University students in the Jack Welch College of Business & Technology are working as interns with startups based in iHub, a co-working space on the University's campus co-sponsored by Verizon. Some of these interns and startups are working in Cybersecurity on projects that will enhance the security and reliability of business and technology data in Connecticut. *Their learning is directly supported by full-text resources in ABI-Inform and Small Business Reference Center, subscriptions provided by researchIT CT.*
- Students in the Farrington College of Education at Sacred Heart University are preparing for careers (or career advancement) in Educational Leadership, Literacy, STEAM, Social Justice Leadership, and a specific Computer Science Educational Endorsement. These graduates teach in and lead schools across Connecticut, including many in socio-economically disadvantaged districts. *Their learning is directly supported by full-text resources in ABI-Inform, PsycInfo, and (Spanish-language) Referencia Latina, subscriptions provided by researchIT CT.*
- Students in the Davis & Henley College of Nursing are preparing for service in Connecticut's hospitals, especially in leadership and community nursing roles such as Family Nurse Practitioner, Telehealth Technology, and Home Health Care Management. These nurses have been vital, front-line service providers during the pandemic and will

contribute to just and equitable health-care outcomes in at-risk populations after the pandemic is over. *Their learning is directly supported by full-text resources in CINAHL, PsycInfo, APA Psyc Tests, and Health Source, subscriptions provided by researchIT CT.*

Teaching and learning supported by *researchIT CT* has a direct impact on the businesses, schools, hospitals, and health care providers that have provided critical community services and sustained Connecticut's economy during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Sacred Heart University, like other Connecticut private and public universities and colleges, cannot serve our teachers and students adequately without these library full-text database resources available through *researchIT CT*.

Loss of \$200,000 in the State budget, which would trigger the supplementary loss of \$97,000 in Federal funds, could force the State Library to discontinue these full-text database subscriptions. Consequently, both public and private universities, our vital community colleges, will have to subscribe at far higher à la carte prices than the group rate negotiated by the State Library.

It is crucial for continued health, education, and economic development in Connecticut that you restore the \$200,000 cuts proposed in HB-6439, and continue to support this vital and useful public and private partnership.

On behalf of CCALD's library directors and librarians, I urge you to restore these cuts to this legislation, and continue to qualify Connecticut for the additional \$97,000 that will be added by the Maintenance of Effort statute of the Federal government.