

Dear Governor Lamont,

I am disappointed to learn that the budget you are proposing for the next fiscal year includes more cuts to Connecticut's libraries. State library funding continues to be cut each year, even as libraries are needed more than ever and offering more to their patrons and communities. I am especially upset to hear of the proposed budgets cuts to the BorrowIt CT program. Our small, rural library depends on the interlibrary loan program to get items for patrons that we don't carry. During the pandemic our circulation has grown, as one of the only libraries in the Northwest Corner that allows patrons to come in and browse. We are seeing patrons from towns all over our region. Over the past year patrons have depended on the library for news, entertainment, social interaction, and education. We have added virtual programming, taken more patron requests, and read books to children outside in the snow. We are continuing to serve as a vital resource to our community during this unprecedented time and do not deserve to have our funding cut. Clearly we are an essential institution and do not deserve to be asked to do with less.

Respectfully submitted,

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