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March 8, 2021

To: Connecticut Appropriations Committee Members

Re: **HB-6439**

Dear Committee Members,

I am writing this evening to let you know my concerns about the budget for public libraries in Connecticut. I am a parent of a five-year-old as well as an elementary level teacher and Connecticut Public Libraries are an essential part of my work and the life of my family.

As a parent and a teacher, I use the resources at the Windsor Public Library almost every week. I borrow books to use in my classroom and for my school's afternoon programs. These include books to support curriculum topics like Black History Month or independent student research into a wide variety of topics, which cannot be found in our school's library. It is of great benefit to me, my students and my family that we can access these resources easily. I especially appreciate the BorrowIT program which lets me get books from any library in the state with my card. During the last trying year, the public library has been an integral part of our family routine as well; our child loves getting new books each week.

I am asking the committee to not cut the BorrowIT program and to not cut the Connecticut State Library budget. These services bring educational enrichment not just to families with young children, teachers, students, and schools, but also resources to job seekers, learners of all ages, and the community at large.

Sincerely,

Sarah Krippenstapel