

Written testimony, House Bill 6439, (AN ACT CONCERNING THE STATE BUDGET etc ...)
Topic: Return of funding to State Library BorrowIT

Dear Committee Members:

My name is Lorna Rhyins. I am writing in my capacity as Library Director at the Edith Wheeler Memorial Library in Monroe.

I would like to request that you eliminate the \$100,000 cut to the CT State Library BorrowIT budget line. BorrowIT is an essential service that allows patrons from anywhere in CT to borrow materials for free from libraries outside their hometown. This program saves money for all towns and supports equity among borrowers within the state.

More importantly, current cuts to the State Library as proposed by the Governor would trigger the Federal Maintenance of Effort (MOE) statute, causing a \$97,000 loss in Federal funds for the State. These cuts represent false savings that would result in reduced services and higher costs. Please consider returning all funding to the State Library.