

To: Appropriations committee  
HB 6439  
Proposed Budget Cuts to Connecticut Libraries

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Why are we considering cutting library funding and services especially during a global pandemic, which necessitates a quarantine?  
Why would we want to cut free access to books and library resources while people are wrestling with some of our highest rates of unemployment?  
Small towns have small libraries and CT has many small towns; why would we deny equal access to library materials for all CT residents?  
Small libraries have small budgets; why would we duplicate costs for services and materials when consortium funding will save local taxpayers across the state valuable dollars?

The state of Connecticut's proposed cut of \$100,000 to "bottowitCT" dollars and the the proposed flat-funding the CT Library Consortium (CLC) would affect every CT town or city, and every CT library, and thus, every CT senior citizen, adult, adolescent and child. Typically, such funding cuts, however, don't affect all CT residents equally. Those in our state who can afford to buy their own books, etc. will continue to those purchases. However, less financially secured folks in rural and urban areas will feel more of the brunt of these decreases in library services. Denial of equal access to resources and services affects CT residents unequally. Building a budget by cutting "borrowitCT" and flat-funding CLC will be done by continuing to burden those who live in our state who can least afford these decrease in library services and materials.

Please continue to support our local libraries by fully funding both "borrowitCT" and CLC. The cost of thees decreases to me and my neighbors is too dear!

"Whatever the cost of our libraries, the price is cheap compared to that of an ignorant nation."