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ALA American Library Association

June 30, 2017

The Honorable Dannel P. Malloy, Governor
The Honorable Martin M. Looney, President *Pro Tempore*
The Honorable Joe Aresimowicz, Speaker of the House
State of Connecticut
State Capitol
210 Capitol Avenue
Hartford, CT 06106

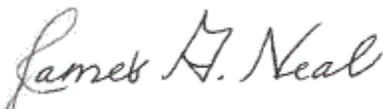
Dear Governor Malloy, Mr. Looney, and Mr. Aresimowicz:

The emergency resource allocation order scheduled to go into effect on July 1 will have a devastating impact on libraries across Connecticut at the very time when Connecticut residents most need their libraries for access to vetted, accurate information and resources. As Presidents of the American Library Association and Public Library Association, representing thousands of librarians in Connecticut and across the country, we urge you to pass a budget that maintains level funding for library services.

Under the Executive Order, funding for the Connecticut Library Consortium (CLC) is eliminated. This relatively small investment of \$190,000 yields an enormous \$7.4 million in cost savings by facilitating shared services across the state. A 50% cut to the statewide digital library will quickly and sharply reduce access to databases and other digital resources that are shared by public, school, and academic libraries to advance learning and research across all communities. Similarly, the cut to funding for legal and legislative materials will decimate the state's primary, publicly-accessible law library. Finally, these cuts will cost Connecticut an additional \$600,000 with the loss of matching federal funds.

We realize that the Executive Order is merely an interim budget. Yet each day that resources are unavailable to the residents of Connecticut diminishes the state's commitment to education, equal access, and opportunity, and the communities that will be hurt most are the state's most vulnerable. We know that you support the services and opportunities offered by libraries throughout Connecticut. Please know that your actions at this time will impact those libraries and their communities in the year to come, and restore level funding immediately.

Sincerely,



James G. Neal, President
American Library Association



Pam Sandlian Smith, President
Public Library Association

cc: Glenn Grube, President, Connecticut Library Association