



**Testimony of Kendall F. Wiggin
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Concerning the Governor's Recommended FY 2018-2019 Budget
Appropriations Committee
February 21, 2017**

Who We Are

The State Library was established in 1854. The mission of the State Library is to preserve and make accessible Connecticut's history and heritage and to advance the development of library services statewide. We do that by providing a variety of library, information, archival, public records, museum, and administrative services to the citizens of Connecticut, as well as the employees and officials of all three branches of State government. Students, researchers, public libraries and town governments throughout the state are also served by the State Library. In addition, the State Library directs a program of statewide library development and administers the federal Library Services and Technology Act state grant.

The **Main Library** at 231 Capitol Avenue, maintains and provides access to:

- A collection of public policy resources, and comprehensive collections of Connecticut and United States government publications dating from the late 1700s to the present. These collections, numbering well over a million and a half pieces, support the Library's roles as the Regional Federal Depository for Connecticut and Rhode Island, and as the Connecticut State Documents repository.
- A comprehensive collection of legal, legislative, and public policy resources and serves as the state's Principal Law Library (Sec. 11-1a(c)). The collection includes statutes and case reports for all 50 U.S. states as well as for all federal jurisdictions, and a broad range of legal treatises, law periodicals, loose-leaf services, and electronic resources on topics relevant to state government interests, the archives of Connecticut General Assembly documents, indexes legislative bills and House and



- Senate proceedings and public hearings, and compiles legislative histories for Connecticut Public and Special Acts. The State Library Bill Room provides information on the status of current Connecticut state legislation, and supplies copies of pending and current legislation on request.
- A comprehensive collection of materials on the history of Connecticut and its people. Resources include an extensive collection of local histories and genealogies, with particular emphasis on Connecticut and New England, most Connecticut town vital records, land records, and probate records from the 1600s to the early 1900s, church records from hundreds of Connecticut churches, transcriptions of family Bible records and cemetery inscriptions, abstracts of newspaper notices of marriages and deaths, military records, the Federal census records for Connecticut, 1790-1930, comprehensive and retrospective collections of Connecticut atlases and maps (including Sanborn Fire Insurance Atlases), city directories, and the most comprehensive collection of Connecticut newspapers from colonial times to the present.

Office of the Public Records Administrator (Sec. 11-8) is responsible for designing and implementing a records management program for all state agencies within the executive department, and the towns, cities, boroughs, districts, and other political subdivisions of the state. The office establishes records retention schedules and records management guidelines; publishes regulations regarding the construction of vaults, the filing of permanent land maps in the towns, and the electronic recording of land records; and monitors the annual examination of land record indexes. The office also administers the State Records Center, which provides state agencies with off-site storage of inactive records at no charge. It also inspects and approves public records storage facilities and municipal vaults. The office administers the Historic Documents Preservation Program (Sec. 11-8j-8f) which assists municipalities in improving the preservation and management of their historic records. The office carries out a program to identify and preserve essential records necessary for disaster response and recovery of normal business operations by the state and its political subdivisions. In addition, by statute, the Public Records Administrator

and the State Archivist must approve the disposition of all public records prior to their destruction or transfer.

State Archives (Sec. 11-1c). Since 1855, the Connecticut State Library has acquired historical records from the three branches of state government. In 1909, the General Assembly made the State Library the official State Archives. The Archives include more than 42,742 cubic feet of records from state and local governments, private organizations and individuals. These records document the evolution of state public policy and its implementation, the rights and claims of citizens, and the history of Connecticut and its people. The State Archivist assists the Public Records Administrator in developing records management guidelines, regulations and records retention schedules for state agencies and local governments. By statute, the State Archivist must review all records retention schedules issued by the Public Records Administrator and records disposal authorizations submitted to the Public Records Administrator.

Museum of Connecticut History (Sec. 11-6a) is located in the State Library and Supreme Court Building. The Museum consists of Memorial Hall, a magnificently restored beaux-arts style gallery, and three adjoining exhibit areas. On permanent display are portraits of Connecticut Governors as well as historic documents, including the State's original 1662 Royal Charter, the 1639 Fundamental Orders, and the 1818 and 1964 State Constitutions. The primary focus of the Museum's collection is Connecticut's government, military and industrial history. Permanent and changing exhibits trace the growth of the state and its role in the development of the nation from the Colonial era to the present.

Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (Sec. 11-1a(d)) is a network library of the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, Library of Congress. The Library provides a free mail loan of recorded and braille books and magazines and necessary playback equipment to eligible state residents unable to read conventional print because of a visual or physical disability.

Division of Library Development provides leadership, funding, education, and statewide services that enhance a local library's ability to deliver high-quality library service to their community (Sec 11-1a).

- deliverIT CT (formerly Connecticar) provides a delivery service to 226 public and academic libraries in Connecticut, transporting books and other items for patrons providing support for statewide resource sharing.
- borrowIT CT (formerly Connecticard) (Sec. 31a- 31c) is a statewide reciprocal borrowing program allowing Connecticut citizens to use their hometown library cards in any public library in Connecticut. The Division administers the program including grants that partially reimburse libraries for non-resident use.
- Consulting and Training Services support the local library's ability to provide high quality library services that are responsive to the needs of their communities.
- researchIT CT (formerly iCONN) (Sec. 4d-82(a)), Connecticut's research engine provides all students, faculty and residents in Connecticut with online access to essential library and information resources supporting digital literacy. Through researchIT CT, a core level of information resources including a statewide catalog and interlibrary loan system is available to every citizen in the state. In addition, specialized research information is available to college students and faculty.
- The Middletown Library Service Center (Sec. 11-23a) provides collection support, technology training lab, consulting and training and professional development materials for Connecticut library staff.
- The Public Library Construction program (Sec. 11-24c) provides grants for public library construction projects to improve library facilities to meet their communities' changing needs.
- Statistical data on public libraries (sec. 11-25) is compiled annually and published online. The Division submits statistical data to the Federal-State Cooperative System for Public Library Data and compiles and reports statistical and narrative data on the State Library agency to the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

- Federal support for libraries from the Institute of Museum and Library Services is administered through the division. The Division also coordinates and approves E-Rate Technology Planning for public libraries.

Budget Proposal

The Governor's *Recommended Budget for the FY 2018-FY2019 Biennium*:

- Eliminates Funding for the Connecticard Program
- Annualizes \$318,886 FY 2017 Holdbacks

The proposed budget:

- Represents a 11.7% cut from the FY2017 budget;
- Will result in the loss of over \$400,000 in federal funds.

Between FY 2009 and FY2017:

- State Library budget has been cut by 30%.
- Staffing has been cut by 25%.
- Over 700 legal titles have been cancelled.

As a result of the FY 2017 budget and subsequent holdbacks:

- For the first time since it was established in 1967, there were no state aid grant payments to public libraries
- The Willimantic Library Service Center was closed and services consolidated into the Middletown Library Service Center
- Connecticard reimbursements were reduced
- The computer access program was ended

Libraries have a long history of supporting and promoting civic engagement. Critical to civic engagement is citizen access to various viewpoints and above all else - facts. Providing access to well vetted information and connecting

knowledge to the needs of individuals and the community have always been at the center of the mission and purpose of libraries. The State Library plays an integral role in facilitating access to resources and services. Libraries are trusted repositories for quality information representing many points of view. As the cost of information continues to rise, libraries are struggling to maintain their collections. The discounts brokered by the Connecticut Library Consortium (which receives a small subsidy through the State Library budget) greatly help libraries stretch their dollars. But no library can have everything and the Connecticard program provides a cost effective way for library collections to be shared.

Connecticard (borrowIT CT)

For 43 years Connecticut citizens have directly benefited from this reciprocal borrowing program. Last year towns shared their collections by loaning 3,891,943 items to residents of other towns representing 15% of total statewide circulation with a value of over \$58 million. In return the State Library will reimburse these towns \$781,820 for loans made to non-residents in FY 2017. All funding goes directly to the local library. Municipalities bear over 80% of the costs for this program, but the State funding serves as an incentive for libraries to share their collections with residents from other communities. Attached is a Program Report Card which provides greater detail on this important program.

Federal Funds

Maintenance of Effort (MOE) is a requirement for us to receive federal funding under the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA). The proposed budget drops us below our required MOE. The federal funds would be reduced proportionally based on how far we fall below our required MOE. The proposed budget would leave us 20% below our MOE requirement resulting in a loss of \$400,395 in FY 2018.

A loss of this magnitude will have a domino effect on important services the State Library provides to libraries such as the funding of resources to support early literacy and bridging the digital literacy gap; funding for deliverIT CT (formerly Connecticut); the Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped; the administration of the Public Library Construction Grant Program; and assistance with eRate applications.

Management Strategies

The State Library will employ a variety of strategies to manage with limited resources:

- Continue to limit hiring to refills of critical positions that stay within available funds and align with agency priorities.
- Request approval to continue to use CEPF funds to offset reductions to the Library Materials account. The State Library operates the principal law library for the state and also has been licensing many of its online resources for all state employees recognizing that most agencies no longer have their own libraries or subscriptions to key resources.
- Continue to apply for eRate funding to reduce telecommunications costs.
- Continue to find and apply for cost saving programs. Last year the agency replaced lighting in three buildings which will lead to long term energy cost savings.
- Continue to renegotiate statewide licensed online information resources and work with other vendors as contracts expire to keep within the available funds for the Statewide Digital Library and the Library Materials budget.
- Continue the collaboration with DAS/BEST to implement an Information lifecycle governance solution for electronic records across the executive branch.
- Continue to develop non resource dependent services through partnerships with other agencies and organizations.

- Continue to prioritize the disposition of state agency records to accommodate executive branch agency needs.
- Continue to seek federal and foundation grants to support library initiatives. A donate "button" has been added to all of the State Library's various websites and social media, as well as the CT Heritage Foundation's website, making donations to the Foundation by credit card possible.
- In conjunction with the CT Heritage Foundation, explore crowd sourced funding for special projects.

I realize that the Legislature is grappling with a very difficult budget situation. This budget presents you with some difficult policy decisions. Whatever those decisions are, my staff and I will carry them out to the best of our ability. We remain committed to providing the highest level of service to the citizens and libraries of our state. I look forward to working with you in the months ahead.