

Resolution in support of legislation to reduce the cost of electronic books and media for Connecticut libraries

WHEREAS, the majority of funding for libraries comes from taxpayer support; and

WHEREAS, libraries use taxpayer funds to purchase eBooks and digital media; and

WHEREAS, library access to eBooks and media is primarily provided by licensing through third party aggregators over which libraries have no ability to negotiate or control; and

WHEREAS, the high cost of eBooks and media for libraries, regularly more than six times as much as what end consumers pay, limits libraries' ability to obtain these materials; and

WHEREAS, the high cost of eBooks and media for libraries restricts public access to these materials; and

WHEREAS, there is no justification for the large price differentials paid by libraries and end consumers; and

WHEREAS, there is no difference between the eBooks and other digital media products obtainable by end consumers and those obtainable by libraries; and

WHEREAS, the cost of these materials has been accelerating at a rate greater than inflation for the past decades; and

WHEREAS, authors of materials are not paid additionally for these sales, with profits accruing solely to the publishers; and

WHEREAS, libraries exist to enhance the ability of people to access a full body of published ideas and literature; and

WHEREAS, many patrons with disabilities and mental health conditions face barriers to information access, alleviated by electronic media; and

WHEREAS, libraries provide such access to these expensive digital materials as an alternative for patrons; and

WHEREAS, several national nonprofit organizations that support libraries have created statements of support regarding the rights of libraries to be able to negotiate for fair pricing; then

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the members of the Connecticut Library Association endorse legislation that would reduce the costs of eBooks for libraries serving the public; and

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of the Connecticut Library Association call upon the legislators of the state of Connecticut, Friends of Libraries, trustees of library boards, municipal officials and fellow taxpayers to support such legislation.