June 12, 2015

The library community is thankful to the Governor and the members of the General Assembly for including funding in the recently passed Biennial Budget to continue the important statewide library services that were in danger of being eliminated.

While funding for the State Library and statewide library services is 21% less than it was as recently as 2009, the appropriation for FY16 and FY17 will mean that the programs, though impacted, can continue and over one half million dollars in federal funds will not be lost because the State Library would be able to meet its maintenance of effort requirement. Loss of the federal fund would have further impact on library services statewide ending the delivery service that library users depend on and reducing service to the thousands of citizens who rely on the Library for the Blind and Handicapped.

Retaining the appropriation for library services through the special session will be critical. Citizens of all ages throughout the state rely on these services.

Thank you,

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