February 11, 2021

Honorable Carl E. Heastie
Speaker NYS Assembly
Room 932 LOB
Albany, NY 12224

Dear Speaker Heastie:

We would like to take this opportunity to communicate our concerns on behalf of our constituents regarding funding for libraries.

The proposed Executive Budget again shows an inequity between educational institutions and libraries. Although we see funding for library construction grants proposed to be maintained at the same levels as last year, we are not where we need to be with regard to adequately providing a multitude of services effectively. The current Executive proposal, a reduction of $4.6 million, at $87 million, places Library Aid well below 2000 funding levels. This reduction is approximately 15% less than the amount required by Education Law. This level of state aid is inadequate for libraries within this state, and there are no other educational institutions expected to function at this level of state aid. It is imperative that any annual increases in Library Aid be made each year in proportion to the overall increase in general education funding.

There should be no barrier when it comes to providing our constituents with the essential tools necessary for their betterment. Our constituents, who range from toddlers to the elderly, depend significantly upon the services provided by our libraries. In addition, access to resources for job training, start-up businesses, consumer health, education, financial and technology training come from our libraries. We are sure you would agree that each and every New Yorker should be afforded equal access to these services.

We, together, must take a strong stance and urge a funding increase mirroring the formula-based approach to education funding. It is imperative that libraries receive the same consideration so that the needs of our mutual constituents will be met.
On behalf of all deserving New York State residents, the undersigned members of the New York State Assembly urge you to consider our request for aid to libraries. We implore you to restore the necessary Library Aid so desperately needed for the many individuals who utilize these services.

Sincerely,

STEVE HAWLEY
Member of Assembly
139th District

CHRISTOPER S. FRIEND
Member of Assembly
124th District

BRIAN MANKTELOW
Member of Assembly
130th District

MICHAEL J. NORRIS
Member of Assembly
144th District

JACOB ASHBY
Member of Assembly
107th District
JOSEPH M. GIGLIO
Member of Assembly
148th Assembly District

BRIAN D. MILLER
Member of Assembly
101st Assembly District

COLIN J. SCHMITT
Member of Assembly
99th Assembly District

KEVIN M. BYRNE
Member of Assembly
94th Assembly District

DAVID G. MCDONOUGH
Member of Assembly
14th Assembly District
MATTHEW SIMPSON
Member of Assembly
114th Assembly District

JEFF GALLAHAN
Member of Assembly
131st Assembly District

MICHAEL A MONTESANO
Member of Assembly
15th Assembly District

JARETT GANDOLPHO
Member of Assembly
7th Assembly District

EDWARD P. RA
Member of Assembly
19th Assembly District

JOSEPH ANGELINO
Member of Assembly
122nd Assembly District
CHRISTOPHER TAGUE
Member of Assembly
102nd Assembly District

JOSHUA JENSEN
Member of Assembly
134th Assembly District

KARL BRABENEC
Member of Assembly
98th Assembly District

CHANTEL JACKSON
Member of Assembly
79th Assembly District

DEMOND MEEKS
Member of Assembly
137th Assembly District

WILLIAM A. BARCLAY
Member of Assembly
120th Assembly District
MARJORIE BYRNES
Member of Assembly
133rd Assembly District

DAVID DIPIETRO
Member of Assembly
147th Assembly District

JOHN LEMONDES
Member of Assembly
126th Assembly District

WILLIAM CONRAD
Member of Assembly
140th Assembly District

THOMAS J. ABINANTI
Member of Assembly
92nd Assembly District
MARY BETH WALSH
Member of Assembly
112th Assembly District

MARK WALCZAK
Member of Assembly
116th Assembly District

GINA SILLITTI
Member of Assembly
16th Assembly District

SMH:esb