



Public Library Systems Directors Organization

MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT

S5753 (Ryan) / A7060 (Jean-Pierre)

Increased access to the Library Construction Program

If enacted, this bill would help rural and small libraries that are in dire need of capital improvements but find they are disadvantaged by the Public Library Construction Aid Program's requirements. This will also help public library systems have more discretion to award these capital grants to libraries facing great construction needs.

New York State currently has 755 local public libraries with 1,065 facilities. We know that over half of libraries in our State are over 60 years old. Increased investment in library construction projects is vital to help our physical infrastructure of libraries and to help make our libraries more accessible and sustainable. The New York State Library estimates that deferred maintenance need for library construction is over \$1.6 billion.

Having increased access to the 90/10 opportunity will directly impact our libraries and library systems. For example, we know that library systems have had to give back construction allocations to the State that systems could have used if the 90/10 opportunity was expanded. The money that could have directly benefitted libraries and taxpayers in that region then went elsewhere because of the model currently used now.

The Public Library Systems Directors Organization (PULISDO) strongly supports the above referenced legislation and urges your approval so that all regions of the State have increased access to this funding.

For additional information, please contact Sarah Glogowski, PULISDO Chair, at 607.319.5601.