



The Voice of the Library Community

New York Library Association

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Honorable Charles E. Schumer
United States Senate
322 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

May 4, 2020

Dear Senator Schumer,

We hope this correspondence finds you and your family safe and healthy. We are writing to share our grave concerns for nearly 800 libraries in New York State, as it relates to funding during this difficult financial climate.

The COVID-19 pandemic has changed our nation forever. In our state, the impact of the virus has been devastating and at times, seems unfathomable. Without Federal financial aid for New York State, to support its needs and that of local entities, our communities may never fully recover.

In April, Governor Cuomo indicated the potential for a 20% reduction in State Aid for libraries. This comes just weeks after funding for libraries in New York State were decreased by nearly \$23 million. If these cuts come to fruition, libraries will be forced to make cuts to the programming and services their patrons desperately need. We fear, even these eliminations may not be enough to balance a budget, requiring library boards and their directors to make the unfortunate decision of laying-off staff.

It is clear through your public leadership, that you have a deep understanding of the gravity of this situation. We are certain you will continue to work hard for our State, our citizens and our communities. The library community greatly appreciates those efforts, and we make ourselves immediately available to support you as you navigate meeting our needs in these unprecedented times.

We can overcome the challenges ahead.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeremy Johannesen".

Jeremy Johannesen
Executive Director
New York Library Association

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Briana N. McNamee".

Briana McNamee
Director of Government Relations & Advocacy
New York Library Association