



*The Voice of the Library Community*

**New York Library Association**

6021 State Farm Road, Guilderland, NY 12084  
518-432-6952 / 518-427-1697 FAX  
info@nyla.org  
www.nyla.org

**\*\*\*PRESS RELEASE\*\*\***

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Contact:

Briana McNamee

Director, Government Relations

New York Library Association

Phone: 518.432.6952 Ext. 102

Email: [advocate@nyla.org](mailto:advocate@nyla.org)

## **NY Libraries Press State Legislature to Back eBook Access Bills Advocates Send 10,000+ Letters to State Legislators**

**ALBANY, NY** – In the last five days, New York Library Association advocates sent 10,000 letters to members of the New York State legislature as part of an in-state public campaign launched in response to recent efforts to limit library access to e-books.

These letters were sent in support of two complementary bills—S.7576 and A.9881—that were introduced in February by Senator Rachel May and Assemblyman Sean Ryan. If passed, the bill would require all publishers who offer electronic books to the private market to extend licenses to libraries within New York State without discrimination. Contracts would stipulate “reasonable terms” that would allow libraries across the state and their patrons to have equitable access to the content they seek.

Both the legislation and letter writing campaign, launched in partnership with the American Library Association, are in response to Macmillan Publishing’s recent decision to limit e-book lending for U.S. libraries. Under Macmillan’s new licensing model, implemented on November 1, 2019, a library can only purchase one e-book-format copy upon release of a new title, after which Macmillan imposes an eight-week embargo on additional copies. The new model is a threat to New York libraries’ central mission: ensuring access to information for all.

“New York’s public libraries are one of the state’s greatest assets... No publisher should be artificially limiting the availability of e-books in ways that discriminate against our libraries. I look forward to ensuring libraries are able to get materials on reasonable terms.” – **Senator Rachel May**

“E-books are an integral part of today's library experience. This legislation will improve the distribution of e-books to help ensure all public libraries can fulfill their mission and provide accessible options for all New Yorkers.” – **Assemblyman Sean Ryan**

“This is not only an access issue; this is an equity issue. This campaign encourages patrons and readers across the state to “stand up” for their libraries and ensure they have the ability to buy and lend the digital content they expect and deserve.” – **Jeremy Johannesen, NYLA Executive Director**

“ALA’s message is the same now as it has been since the embargo was announced: Delaying, denying, or limiting access to new titles for libraries means limiting access for readers. We see only one acceptable outcome for this situation: Macmillan must lift the embargo.” – **Wanda Kay Brown, ALA President**

The 10,000 letters sent to members of the New York State legislature informed them of the embargo and encouraged them to support the newly introduced bills. To join the campaign, visit: [nyla.org/advocacy](http://nyla.org/advocacy) or take action directly at: <https://bit.ly/2PI4PP2>

**About NYLA:**

The New York Library Association (NYLA) is the voice of the library community in New York. NYLA is the oldest state library association in the country and represents school, college, special and public libraries, library staff, trustees, and students from around the state.

NYLA is the only statewide organization dedicated to advocating on behalf of all libraries and library staff in Albany and serves as the spokesperson on library matters to the media and public policymakers.

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