

Assembly Committee on Libraries and Education Technology
Library Trustees Association of NYS Testimony
Hamilton Hearing Room B
Legislative Office Building
November 29, 2012

Honorable members of this committee: My name is John Eberhardt and I am a member of the Board of Directors of the Library Trustees Association of New York State. Today I am here representing over 7,000 library and library system trustees in the State. The mission of our organization is to educate, represent and advocate for trustees because they are the stewards of one billion dollars each year in local, state and federal public funding; one point three billion dollars in public and private annual income; and three point three billion dollars in library collections, equipment and real estate. We are volunteers who have undertaken an enormous fiduciary responsibility.

The education and training of trustees to fulfill this important decision-making role is vital. These are teaching programs that are offered to trustees by libraries and library systems. This is another essential library service that is provided.

The Library Trustees Association has a certification program in place that acknowledges trustees who have demonstrated the effort to educate themselves about libraries, library issues and the responsibilities associated with the position of library trustee.

The Library Trustees Association cannot emphasize enough the importance of library funding and the impact libraries have on the communities in New York State.

Thank you for holding this hearing and giving us the opportunity to speak.