

Please accept this email testimony in lieu of a personal delivery at Monday's hearing.

Jervis Public Library in Rome is reliant upon state aid because it provides direct aid to libraries a. to encourage sharing resources and b. to provide expertise to other libraries with limited professional staff. We are also reliant upon state aid as given to the library system, providing 80% of its annual budget. Thus one cut cuts twice. Due to cuts already in effect, the library system no longer provides any databases to the libraries in the system other than the ones procured by the state library, which are meant to provide resources to businesses, academic libraries, school libraries, and public libraries. Covering a wide swath, they cannot fully meet the unique needs of any type of libraries. Because budgets are dwindling, the library system cannot fill the void by purchasing databases to fill our patrons' needs. This is a core service patrons expect and can no longer find in central New York.

The Mid-York Library System provides essential services for each member library: Staff and public Internet access, the computerized card catalog, delivery of materials loaned among libraries to reduce duplicate purchasing, bulk purchasing discounts, processing of materials to ready them for the shelves, staff development, and compliance awareness (OSHA, HR law, NYS regulations, etc.). The irony of state cuts is that these cuts endanger the services provided at the system level which save money for each of the 43 libraries in the system through consolidation. So one cut to the system means service cuts to patrons at 43 libraries. All of the essential services are in danger, making twentieth century public library service in central NY an endangered species.

It would be irresponsible of me to express concern without offering potential courses of action. I urge that you follow the leads of libraries in:

1. Continuous process improvement, applying lean manufacturing principles to everything from office procedures to service provision to find efficiencies, maintaining essential services to all New Yorkers.
2. Cost analysis, analyzing every leased piece of equipment, re-negotiating contracts to include consumables and even not renewing contracts for leased equipment. For example, at Jervis Public Library, we went from a brand name postage meter in 2005 to an off brand in 2006 to no postage meter in 2011—instead using a stamps.com account to do the same job (In fact, with a time savings) at a 2011 cost of approximately \$200 per year versus \$5,000 per year in 2005.
3. Bill payment analysis, assuring no late payment fees for any bills and choosing the best payment option for things like insurance costs, balancing cost of payment over time with cash flow.
4. Sharing resources many offices or departments can use, but none can afford individually.

I also urge elected officials to do the right thing, and change the pension plan for those currently working under tiers 1-4. An immediate institution of contributions to the plan until retirement and making the retirement income taxable in NY state would generate revenue and preserve benefits for those whose retirement is many years away. If there is no change made, those of my generation face not only the collapse of social security, but also collapse of the pension fund, creating even more demand on public assistance.

Libraries have reached the tipping point, with libraries in lower income and sparsely populated areas more vulnerable to lost services and even closure. Decision made and actions taken to ensure the financial sustainability of New York State are necessary to assure that public libraries, the great equalizers in democracy, will remain strong and fill constituents' needs in the coming decades.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the impact on New York's budget process on public libraries in New York.

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