

November 9, 2009

On Thursday, November 5, 2009, the Senate Finance Committee held a hearing on the Governor's Proposed Deficit Reduction Plan. Senator Carl Kruger (Brooklyn), Chair of the Finance Committee, presided over the hearing along with Senators Vincent Leibell (40<sup>th</sup> District), Suzi Oppenheimer (37<sup>th</sup> District) and Andrea Stewart-Cousins (35<sup>th</sup> District).

Michael Borges, Executive Director of New York Library Association (NYLA) testified and I submitted written testimony on behalf of libraries; and a number of library supporters were in attendance. Over 50 other agencies affected by this Plan were represented at the hearing as well.

Senator Kruger's opening remarks were supportive, stating that the Senate is looking to do everything possible to offer zero cuts to the community and trying to protect those most in need. Throughout the hearing, Senator Kruger noted that it is vital that the Assembly members also be contacted about the impact of the proposed Deficit Reduction Plan.

Below are links to both Michael Borges' and my testimony.

*Michael Borges:* [http://www.nyla.org/index.php?page\\_id=1851](http://www.nyla.org/index.php?page_id=1851)

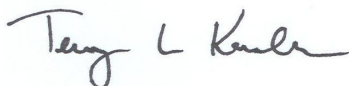
*Terry Kirchner:* [PDF file Testimony](#)

The Senate will bring their own plan to the Governor after the completion of this hearing.

There is still time to contact your legislators to ask them not to make any additional cuts to library aid. The easiest and best way to contact your legislators is through the NYLA's Online Advocacy via the link below:

[http://www.nyla.org/index.php?page\\_id=925](http://www.nyla.org/index.php?page_id=925)

Your support can help prevent further cuts to library aid for this year.



Terry L. Kirchner  
*Executive Director*