

From: **Jeremy Johannesen**

Subject: [NYLINE] ADVOCACY ALERT: Cuomo Cuts Future Funding for Libraries

Governor Cuomo released his FY2020-2021 Executive Budget proposal. For the fourth straight year he has drastically cut funding for our libraries.

From the Governor's Executive Budget Proposal:

Library Aid: \$91.6M (\$5M CUT)

The proposed funding is \$5M less than what was in last year's enacted state budget. This proposed CUT fails to acknowledge the crucial role libraries serve in our communities, and the contributions they make to our state's education system. Libraries ARE Education!

Library Construction Aid: \$14M (\$20M CUT)

As you know, the State Library Construction Aid program was originally cut by \$20M in the FY2019-20 Executive Budget. However, thanks to our champions in the legislature, the Program was restored to \$34M in the final days of the 2019 legislative session.

Yet again, Governor Cuomo has proposed cutting the Program's funding. The State Division of Library Development estimates that library renovation and construction needs are \$1.5B statewide. Over 50% of public libraries in NYS are 60+ years old, and an additional 31% are 30+ years old. Investment in the Library Construction Aid program must be increased to address aging infrastructure, energy inefficient buildings and the evolving ways people use libraries.

Join our ONLINE PROTEST<<https://nyla.us19.list-manage.com/track/click?u=914910250204afb27a2f4d2b8&id=4226084aed&e=831ab4a39f>>! Send a message of support to your elected representatives as well as a roster of legislative leaders that need to hear our message and understand the volume of passionate library advocates!

TAKE ACTION NOW!<<https://nyla.us19.list-manage.com/track/click?u=914910250204afb27a2f4d2b8&id=ec1ec9ed4f&e=831ab4a39f>>

More Ways to Get Involved

As always, NYLA is relying on its members to take action, and contact your elected officials through NYLA's online advocacy tools. Encourage everyone to "Become An Advocate" by visiting nyla.org/advocacy<<http://nyla.org/advocacy>>. When engaging with

your elected officials, it is important that you discuss the great work you and your library are doing, and to also stay on message by using the talking points<<https://nyla.us19.list-manage.com/track/click?u=914910250204afb27a2f4d2b8&id=0531184658&e=831ab4a39f>> we have on our website. For those of you on social media, we have posted a set of tweets that we encourage you to use, and tweet at your local Assemblymember and Senator.

Library Advocacy Day<<https://nyla.us19.list-manage.com/track/click?u=914910250204afb27a2f4d2b8&id=062b6960bb&e=831ab4a39f>> is Tuesday, February 25, 2020! Come to Albany and make your voice heard!

Post your Library Advocacy Signs with messages for Albany NOW online with #NYLALAD20 and #FundLibraries - we'll be gathering them up and posting an album of the virtual rally!

Pre-Advocacy Day<<https://nyla.us19.list-manage.com/track/click?u=914910250204afb27a2f4d2b8&id=d03f0e882e&e=831ab4a39f>> Activities

Travel to Albany one day early (Monday, February 24) and partake in some top notch professional development, the Library Advocates Luncheon, and more!

Complete details can be found here<<https://nyla.us19.list-manage.com/track/click?u=914910250204afb27a2f4d2b8&id=8f387a8005&e=831ab4a39f>>.

Real People. Real Dollars.

Real People. Real Dollars is an effort to drive more library advocates to the NYLA Online Advocacy Center and increase awareness of Library Advocacy Day. Once again, we're calling on libraries from across the state to participate in the Real People. Real Dollars. campaign. Investing in libraries has a big return on investment for the communities they serve, help us tell that story in pictures as we prepare for Library Advocacy Day!

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