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LIBRARY DISTRICT

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California's Library Services for People with Print Disabilities, in association with the Library of Congress, provides free Braille and audio books, magazines and playback equipment to all eligible Californians unable to read standard print. Follow the link to find your local braille and talking book library and sign up for free library service.

<http://pd.library.ca.gov> [2]

Information from the Center for Disease Control on Ebola:

- [Ebola Factsheet](#) [3]
- [Ebola Infographic](#) [4]

REMINDER! SEND A QUICK EMAIL TO HELP SAVE LIBRARY BUDGET FUNDING (Instructions below)

As we reported in our "News From the Capitol" yesterday, the 2015-16 State Budget that is scheduled to be taken up for a vote in the Senate and Assembly on Monday, June 15, contains an important level of new funding for public libraries. However, there is no guarantee that Governor Brown will support a specific portion of the additional funding when he acts on the Budget bill in the coming days, as the Governor is trying to hold the line on increased spending commitments.

CLA is requesting your help! Please email a quick note to the Governor's office in support of maintaining the library funding in the state Budget.

The Issue:

The Governor's May Revision of the Budget contains \$4.25 million in new funding for public libraries (\$2 million for adult literacy, \$1.5 million for broadband connection grants, \$225K for broadband administration fees, and \$521K for State Library preservation activities). We are grateful to the Governor for this funding commitment to libraries. These amounts were adopted by the Budget Subcommittees in both the Assembly and Senate and will be approved by the Governor.

The legislature then approved an additional \$6.5 million above the \$4.25 million for the purpose of adding more money to the broadband connection grants (\$2.5 million) and helping to bolster the struggling CA Library Services Act (\$4 million). This money too, is in the State Budget, pending a vote on Monday.
However, these funds are vulnerable.

The Budget Committees, using the Legislative Analyst's Office higher revenue estimates of \$3 billion, provided significant funding increases to Education, child care, health, and other programs beyond what the Governor has provided in his Budget. Several times during the Budget hearings, the Governor's Department of Finance representative cautioned that these additional expenditures were "based on \$3 billion of speculative revenues," implying the potential for the Governor to use his "blue pencil" to reduce or eliminate various appropriations.

Please take a moment today to help protect the library funding that CLA and a large bi-partisan coalition of legislators worked so hard to incorporate into this year's Budget. When the Budget bill heads to the Governor's desk next week, he will have until June 30 to accept or to "blue pencil" various funding line items.

Take Action Today

Your help is needed! Please take a moment to register your support for protecting library funding in the Budget.

Best Option: Send a note via email:

You may email the Governor's office to express your support for the library funding in the Budget by using the following steps:

1. Go to www.gov.ca.gov [5]
2. Click on the red “Contact” tab at the top of the homepage.
3. Where it indicates you may send an email, fill in the bubble: “Have comment.”
4. Enter your name and email address.
5. Using the drag-down options, choose: “Budget proposal 2015-16” (near the top of the list of options).
6. Click the button that says, “pro” regarding your position.
7. Write either: a) the text suggested below or b) your own version, in the box provided on the Governor’s webpage and click “submit.”

Suggested text:

RE: FUNDING FOR PUBLIC LIBRARIES – 2015-16 BUDGET BILL: AB 93

Dear Governor Brown,

Thank you for including much needed funding for public libraries in your May Revision of the State Budget. The funding you have identified for literacy and broadband connections will be extremely valuable to public libraries throughout the state. As you prepare to review the Budget bill that is being sent to your desk, I would also like to request your support for the additional funding for the public libraries that was approved as part of the “Conference Committee Compromise.”

The additional \$2.5 million for broadband connection grants will expedite high-speed broadband connectivity for a significant amount of library branches and the \$4 million for the California Library Services Act will help to reimburse libraries for their willingness to share books and materials among each other – ensuring an equity of access for all California library patrons.

Thank you for your consideration of these matters as you are reviewing the Budget bill in the coming days.

Sincerely,

Name

(Library, group, etc.)

Note:

If you would rather phone the Governor's office, you may do so at [\(916\) 445-2841](tel:9164452841) [6] and you may choose the prompt #4 where you will speak to a representative. That representative will log your comments.

If you would rather fax a letter to the Governor's office, you may do so at [\(916\) 558-3160](tel:9165583160) [7].

Thanks for your help!

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[6] <tel:%28916%29%20445-2841>

[7] <tel:%28916%29%20558-3160>