

– Template letter for state chapters/local library boards of trustees – in support of the Library Stabilization Fund Act

NOTE: For greatest impact,

- customize with local examples,
 - use library/association letterhead, and
 - send as soon as possible (no later than Friday, July 24, 2020).
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Dear [Senator/Representative Name]:

On behalf of libraries across [State], I/we write to urge relief for America's libraries in the next phase of coronavirus legislation. COVID-19 has caused significant revenue losses for libraries, resulting in thousands of furloughs and layoffs to date. Fiscal stabilization is needed to preserve crucial library services for students, job seekers, and small businesses.

We respectfully request that you cosponsor the Library Stabilization Fund Act ([S. 4181](#) / [H.R. 7486](#)), which would provide \$2 billion for libraries administered by the federal Institute of Museum and Library Services. The legislation would keep nearly 370,000 library workers on the job, defray costs related to safe re-opening, and support a range of library services to millions of patrons, including:

- High-speed internet access and digital literacy training
- Resources to facilitate remote learning for educators and students of all ages
- Employment assistance, from resume writing to job search and career skills training
- Support in applying for government services such as veteran's benefits, unemployment assistance, and medical coverage
- Programs that foster early literacy, entrepreneurship, and lifelong learning

As the immediate impacts of the COVID-19 came to light, many of America's 117,000 libraries were on the front lines of serving individuals and communities. Libraries continue to serve at the forefront of digital equity by supporting distance learning through home broadband access, devices, and technical support. In [State], libraries have [insert state examples]

However, Americans' access to all these vital community library services is at risk exactly when they are most needed. Significant declines in state and local budgets, likely reductions in charitable contributions, and the need to adapt library services to accommodate remote learning have already put the financial stability of many libraries at risk.

To help meet these needs, we urge you to cosponsor the Library Stabilization Fund Act and support efforts to provide at least \$2 billion in emergency funding for libraries. These funds will provide a minimum of \$10 million for [State] to meet urgent local needs, such as expanding access to computer instruction, business trend databases, homework centers, access to eBooks and adaptive technology, bookmobile service, and development of outreach programs to underserved communities. The bill also will ensure that these funds could be used to absorb the unplanned-for costs of cleaning facilities and redesigning libraries to accommodate new public health requirements.

[State residents] already know they can depend on their local library for a range of services and information. We urge you to support the ability of libraries across the country to serve their communities through this national crisis.

Thank you,

[Executive Director/other representative]