

Soundbites for 2009-10 State Budget Advocacy

Demand for library services **is up** dramatically during this recession.

Libraries all across Pennsylvania are **busier than ever** serving people looking for work, families on tight budgets, and retirees grappling with shrinking savings.

Pennsylvania's librarians experience the recession every hour of every workday and they see the real growing **need for more library services precisely because of the recession.**

The total **loss** of nearly \$5.7 million **in funding** for **will result in library service cutbacks** that our constituents can ill-afford at a time when expanded library services can help many Pennsylvanians solve some of the problems they face in this economy.

During this recession, Pennsylvania's **librarians ask only for level funding** in order to meet some part of the rising demand for hours and access to computers, training classes, current books, publications, and DVDs.

It has been said that **no one stretches the public's dollar further** than the local librarian.

Cutting 5.1% from libraries makes little sense when the need for libraries is greater, and even less sense considering that the **overall Department of Education \$14-billion budget will *grow* as library funding *shrinks*.**

Governor Rendell's **proposed reduction of \$3,040,000** in four of the five library state appropriation lines – including the **devastating 50% cut** to our **State Library** – will cause **Pennsylvania to lose nearly a million dollars in additional federal funding.**

Library users across the state will be affected by the 50% cut at the State Library since it is the agency that collects, preserves, and lends material by and about Pennsylvania, and is a prime resource for genealogical, local history, and legal information.

This **loss of federal Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) funding will affect local constituents** who rely on their public library. Local libraries will see reduced services, fewer available databases, and decreased availability of grants for library improvements.

It makes **no sense** to leave **federal LSTA dollars on the table** at the very same time when Pennsylvania is trying to secure every nickel possible from Washington.