



February 11, 2013

Testimony of Jason Kramer, Executive Director
 NYS Higher Education Initiative

Chairmen and Members, thank you for this opportunity.

New York is staking its future on the ability of higher education to propel our economy through the information age. Too often overlooked is the fact that the future of higher education is staked on information – specifically, access to information.

The information infrastructure of higher education, and therefore of our future economy, is the academic and research libraries. The Governor's proposed budget affords these libraries a mere \$4.8 million in aid. That amount is utterly insufficient.

I request that aid to academic and research libraries be increased to the level appropriated in 2007. Frankly, that is not enough, but it would at least prevent further erosion of the state's information infrastructure.

Specifically, restoration in four aid categories is needed to protect critical information access for faculty and students.

	Executive Proposal 2013-2014	Actual Appropriation 2007-2008	Requested Increase
NYPL to CUNY	\$1,599,119	\$2,000,000	\$400,881
Hospital Library Aid	\$1,138,168	\$1,423,494	\$285,326
MISP	\$404,577	\$506,000	\$101,423
CCDA	\$1,653,029	\$2,067,425	\$414,396
Total	\$4,794,893	\$5,996,919	\$1,202,026

NYPL to CUNY – The New York Public Library received funds to support the City University of New York. This program enables cost-savings by eliminating the need for duplicative collection building.

Hospital Library Aid – This program enables hospitals and acute care facilities to meet the Regents minimum standards for libraries. It also grants hospital libraries the ability to participate in collaborative resource sharing programs.

Medical Information Services Program – MISIP provides medical, clinical, and consumer health information to facilities that provide direct patient care.

Coordinated Collection Development Aid – CCDA promotes regional cost-saving collaborations that ensure student and faculty access to needed programs in a cost-effective manner.

Without these collaborative programs individual institutions stand alone, devolving an information infrastructure into islands of access. Without a cost-effective means to share resources, campuses face the choice of paying a higher individual rate for information, or simply cutting access. In either case, it is a step backwards.

Meanwhile, other states are moving toward maximizing their purchasing power. From Atlanta to Sacramento state governments are showing real leadership in lowering costs and expanding access. For instance, Georgia is looking at doubling state aid, providing \$10 million for its 131 academic libraries, and California recently unveiled a \$25 million initiative to provide electronic textbooks through its academic libraries.

In comparison, New York, whose colleges and universities are second to none, supports the information infrastructure of more than 300 campuses with less than \$5 million annually.

I therefore respectfully request that state aid be restored to 2007 levels.

Thank you.

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