

Resolution on Adequate Public and School Library Funding

Whereas the free exchange of and access to information is the cornerstone of our democracy; and

Whereas, the State of Wisconsin Legislature (State Statute §43.001) formally recognizes this cornerstone belief:

- “(a) The importance of free access to knowledge, information and diversity of ideas by all residents of this state;
- (b) The critical role played by public, school, special and academic libraries in providing that access;
- (c) The major educational, cultural, and economic asset that is represented in the collective knowledge and information resources of the State's libraries;
- (d) The importance of public libraries to the democratic process; and
- (e) That the most effective use of library resources can occur only through interlibrary cooperation among all types of libraries and the effective use of technology;” and

Whereas, the importance of free and equitable access to information in a democratic society is coupled with the importance of information literacy as a national bedrock principle; and

Whereas, the mission of libraries is to provide all people public access to information with the highest possible quality library and information services; and

Whereas, the Wisconsin library and educational communities believe that public and school libraries are outstanding stewards of public funds; and

Whereas, qualitative and quantitative research studies have demonstrated the impact of school libraries on academic achievement, and similar research has demonstrated the positive economic impact of public libraries on local communities, and

Whereas, many proposed laws or constitutional amendments threaten to reduce library funding, as well as limit local decision making of library boards and communities; and

Whereas, these proposals seek to restrict government through inflexible spending formulas that inadequately address the complexities of providing necessary services; therefore be it

Resolved, that the Wisconsin library and education communities oppose actions of the state legislature or state constitutional amendments to limit information access, reduce library funding, or restrict local decision making; and be it

Resolved, the Wisconsin library and education community encourages all library patrons to take actions to defeat any such legislation or constitutional amendments.

Wisconsin Educational Media Association

Wisconsin Library Association (includes the Association of Wisconsin Special Librarians, Wisconsin Association of Academic Librarians, Wisconsin Public Library Association and the Wisconsin Trustees & Advocates Association.)