

## **Senate Bill 6380 will provide money to help school districts KEEP SCHOOL LIBRARIES OPEN!**

SB 6380 passed through the Senate with a unanimous vote (49-0) last week, and is now being considered by the House. There is an Education Committee hearing Thursday night (2/21), and if SB 6380 passes, it will quickly move to the Appropriations and Rules Committees. Grassroots engagement and constituent calls & letters are what led to the unanimous vote in the Senate. Please, help us get this bill through the House.

### **ACTIONS YOU CAN TAKE TODAY:**

**1. Sign the online petition** (and encourage others to do the same!)

<http://gopetition.com/online/15285.html>

**2. Call Olympia** Call the Legislative Hotline at 1-800-562-6000. Takes 2 minutes! Your opinion goes to your 2 Representatives, 1 Senator and the Governor. Please let them know you believe in full-time library programs for all children in WA, and that you want them to support Senate Bill 6380.

\* SB will provide crucial funding (\$12 per student) 'to maintain and improve library materials, collections, and services.' This is new money that will arrive in September 2008.

\* This bill represents 'bridge funding'; it aims to stop the erosion of WA school libraries, and also calls upon the Basic Education Joint Task Force to consider school library programs as it revises basic education funding formulas.

\* This is a top priority for you and you want it to be for them too.

**3. Email both of your Representatives** and personally ask them to support SB 6380. Let them know it is a top priority for you, and tell them why. Find your Representatives here after plugging in your address:

<http://apps.leg.wa.gov/DistrictFinder/>

### **4. Email the House Appropriations Committee**

You can draft one email, but please send it individually. Please remember to hit 'NO REPLY NECESSARY' – the legislators are working around the clock during this short session. In the thick of all the budget discussions we need them to understand the following:

\* urgency Do the kids have full-time access to school libraries in your community? Are there cuts on the horizon for your district? Have libraries been cut in recent years? Are certified teacher-librarians on the endangered list in your community, or already extinct? What about the school library budget (we have

learned of so many that don't have any budget)? What is the average age of the collection in your community? (we were shocked that ours was 1982).

\* it can make a difference right now.

Find the Appropriations Committee members here:

<http://www.leg.wa.gov/House/Committees/APP/members.htm>

- click on their name and then click on the email link
- the system will identify if you are a constituent or not (it's ok to not be; as Appropriations Committee members, they represent the entire state for fiscal decisions).
- plug in 6380/ click on "FOR"
- make your case

### **5. Contact the Governor**

Governor Gregoire will decide, along with Representative Chop and Senator Brown, which bills make the final budget. The budget is very tight this year – let her know that this is a wise investment in the education of Washington's children. Here is how to communicate with the Governor:

<http://www.governor.wa.gov/contact/default.asp>

### **6. Pass the word!**

Please forward this email to your friends and family. This is entirely a grassroots effort, and we depend on supporters helping to get the word out.

For the most up-to-date information, please see our blog:

<http://librariesfordemocracy.org/fundfuture/>

Thank you so much!

Lisa, Susan, and Denette