

Dear _____ ,

Across Washington state, school library programs are being drastically reduced. Please help take a stand that our children and state and local economies need the legislature to take immediate action to stop this trend.

Here are quick & easy ways you can help immediately:

1. Sign the petition, and include comments about the value of school libraries. Encourage other members of your household to sign as well.

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

Join the coalition and get involved. HYPERLINK "http://fundourfuturewashington.org" <http://fundourfuturewashington.org>

2. CALL OLYMPIA! On average, it takes 2 minutes.

Call the Legislative Hotline at 1-800-562-6000. Your opinion goes to your 2 Reps, 1 Senator and the Governor. Tell them you support a line-item in the state budget for school libraries. They've told us they're waiting to hear if people speak up.

3. Email your legislators

Pop your zipcode into the following link and you can get emails to each of your legislators. 5 minutes of work!!

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

Use the letter that follows -- cut and paste if you'd like!

4. Pass this message on to anyone you think would be interested (friends, family, professional community, school community, book club, coffee shops, churches, community centers etc.).

You can help change the future for children in our state. Please help!

Thanks,

Lisa Layera Brunkan HYPERLINK "mailto:lisa@fundourfuturewashington.org" lisa@fundourfuturewashington.org

Susan McBurney HYPERLINK "mailto:susan@fundourfuturewashington.org" susan@fundourfuturewashington.org

Co-Chairs, Washington Coalition for School Libraries and Information Technology (WCSLit)

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SAMPLE LETTER TO YOUR LEGISLATOR

Dear Representative _____,

I urge you to support funding for school libraries legislation.

The presence of a highly qualified teacher librarian in every school increases student achievement. School libraries and media programs provide the resources that students need to learn for the 21st century.

Washington's competitiveness is enhanced when our schools are funded, staffed, and resourced according to the best research findings; this includes certified librarians and fully stocked libraries and media programs.

I fully support the efforts of the Washington Coalition for School Libraries and Informational Technology to secure adequate and sustained funding for our school libraries. Many library programs are already shutting down in communities around the state; remaining programs are increasingly understaffed and lacking technology.

As a citizen and voter, I thank you in advance for your attention to this important need. Thank you for your commitment to the students in Washington State!

Sincerely,

[include complete address to indicate you are in the legislator's voting district]