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Good morning. My name is Dr. Colleen Sadowski and I am the Director of the Rochester City School Library System. I am also the immediate past Chairperson of the Regents Advisory Council on Libraries. Thank you Chairwoman Barrett and committee members for this opportunity to speak with you today.

The great state of New York has three types of library systems - School Library Systems, Public Library Systems as well as Reference and Research Library Resource Systems (also known as 3R's). A cursory glance may lead one to think that we are all vastly different from the other. While that may be true in some aspects, we are similar in many ways. We all have community patrons that we provide services to from birth thru adulthood. It seems obvious that children benefit from both public and school libraries right? But how about a library that falls under the auspice of a Reference and Research library? One typically thinks of universities and hospitals as reference and research. An example of a facility falling under this category would also be the libraries at the Rochester Museum and Science Center or The Strong, both centers of education and learning for children as well as adults. All three system types ultimately serve the same patrons and are interconnected in many ways.

We are fortunate that we share similar client bases and have similar needs. The main needs that we all share involve professional development and resources. Budgets are smaller than they were 10 years ago, populations are rising, and libraries and systems have become even more resourceful, striving to continue to provide their patrons with high quality services. We continue to regularly work together to provide new and improved services to our patrons.

Libraries all over the state are experiencing an influx of residents from hurricane ravaged areas. In the Rochester City School District alone, we have 534 new English Language Learning students from Puerto Rico, Florida, Texas and St. Thomas. That would fill an entire school. The influx of English Language Learners has impacted school and public libraries and is proving challenging for systems of all types. As always, libraries are rising to the occasion and finding ways to meet the needs of their new patrons, because above all else, libraries are education for EVERYONE.

In the Rochester Public Libraries, staff are creating programs and services customized to their patron population. In our area you will find anything from bike repair classes to TASC (Test Assessing Secondary Completion) classes. Branches offer resume workshops, financial literacy courses, community gardens and seed collections. You will find patrons busy in craft workshops or in STEAM programs learning CAD and 3d printing. Public libraries all over the state are offering English classes. This is becoming critical programming.

Many of our New Americans come from situations where they are not comfortable leaving their children with anyone. They are learning how to navigate a new culture and how to trust people again. Some libraries are offering story time programs that coincide with adult programs allowing mothers to take advantage of educational classes while their children are also in a creative learning environment. Some schools offer adult programs in the school their child attends. The Children's School of Rochester offers English classes for parents during the school day. Parents attend school for a few hours a day, increasing their language skills. They also help them apply for jobs.

The Eastern Suffolk BOCES School Library System has created a document for their libraries, summarizing databases that support other languages. Many school libraries rely on these translation features. Schools in the Erie-Buffalo-Niagara region and around the state are using these translation features in their instruction. In a dream world we would be able to provide enough print literature in patrons' home language. With school library book reimbursement still at \$6.25 per student, my 534 new children, and the average cost of a new hardcover book at \$27, this means I can only purchase 123 books for them. You can imagine the waiting list a librarian would have for those new books. An increase in the flat reimbursement rate for library materials would allow school libraries to update collections and offer patrons new, relevant and interesting literature.

An increasing number of library patrons are expecting systems to offer more than books. Patrons want access and to learn how to use emerging technology and equipment. School Library Systems share equipment such as 3D printers, Bloxels, laser cutters, LittleBits, Legos, Dash & Dot, Ozobots and Robot Mice. These items are used in STEAM (Science Technology Engineering Arts Math) learning and Makerspaces. The demand is incredibly high. Libraries and systems of all types are offering access to new technology. An increase in funding would give systems the ability to add all of these items and more to their circulation and patron programs. Patron access to these types of hands on activities build learning through experimentation and creativity.

Libraries strive to keep up with new technology and digital resources. Many of these are priced right out of our budgets. In the Rochester region we work together with publishers and vendors for regional pricing. The more of us that buy in, the bigger the discount we receive. There have been several times in the past that I have not been able to participate in purchases due to a lack of funding. Students in one of the poorest cities in the country, with the lowest graduation rate in the state. Due to a lack of funding, I could not provide the same materials as my suburban colleagues to supplement, enhance and engage students in learning. With increased library funding, our library collections would support learning for all.

I would like to thank all of the committee members for your time today. I truly appreciate the opportunity to talk about our accomplishments as a state and region as well as our struggles. I am passionate about the population I serve. With increased funding, we may still be a poor city, but we would be rich in resources with engaged learners. Thank you.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Colleen Adewski". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "C".