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Erie County Legislature Unanimously Opposes Limits on Book Purchases

A resolution sponsored by Legislator Chimera supports the position of the American Library Association against Macmillan Publishers' restrictive policies

Erie County, NY – At the last regularly scheduled session, Erie County Legislator Lisa Chimera introduced a resolution supporting the American Library Association's position against restricting the purchase of new e-books. Macmillan Publishing's new policy would require public libraries and universities to wait 8 weeks before purchasing additional copies of new e-books for patrons to enjoy.

The library system typically has a policy of purchasing one copy of a book for every 5 holds that are requested. This measure keeps wait times for new or popular items to 3 months or less. New publishing restrictions could mean patrons are forced to wait much longer than is typical, even years before borrowing the desired materials.

Legislator Lisa Chimera said, "As an English-Language Arts teacher, I know how important access to literature is. Our public libraries are vital resources for learning, and any prohibition on the purchase of additional, highly sought after book titles will diminish our ability to educate. It is so important that all our residents have access to reading materials, even those who are unable to come into a library in person. I strongly oppose this policy, and support the position of the Buffalo and Erie County Public Library in asking that this embargo be lifted."

Mary Jean Jakubowski, Director of the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library System, remarked, "We are grateful for the support of the Erie County Legislature standing against the Macmillan Publishing eBook Embargo. Readers of eBooks deserve better. Our community deserves better. Libraries are the great equalizer – to embargo access to resources goes directly against the mission of the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library: *Connecting our diverse community with library resources that enrich, enlighten and entertain.* We hope that everyone will sign onto the American Library Association's #eBooksForAll petition"

For more information and to sign the petition opposing the restrictions on e-book purchases, please visit ebooksforall.org

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