



## Take action! Email your legislators today!

**It takes less than two minutes to send your message  
in support of library funding for  
Buffalo & Erie County Public Libraries  
to both state and federal elected officials.**

**1. You can show your support for Buffalo & Erie County Public Libraries by sending an email to your New York State Senator and Assemblymember:**

**Background:**

The Fiscal Year 2021-2022 New York State Executive Budget proposal has been released and for the fifth straight year it calls for a reduction in state funding for our libraries.

The proposed funding is 7.5% less than what was included in last year's enacted state budget. This proposed CUT fails to acknowledge the crucial role libraries serve in our communities and the contributions they make to our state's education system.

The State Library Construction Aid program was reduced by \$20 million last year. The remaining \$14 million is less than 1% of the community need statewide. The New York State Division of Library Development estimates that library renovation and construction needs are \$1.6 billion statewide. Over 50% of public library buildings in New York State are 60+ years old, and an additional 31% are 30+ years old. Investment in the Library Construction Aid program must be increased to address aging infrastructure, energy inefficient buildings and the evolving ways people use libraries.

**Take Action**

Please let your elected Western New York State representatives know we appreciate their support. Click here to sign an online letter that will be delivered to your State Senator and Assemblymember: <https://www.nyla.org/contact-your-elected-officials/>.



**2. You can also show your support for Buffalo & Erie County Public Libraries and libraries across the country by sending an email to your federal officials in support of the *Build America's Libraries Act*.**

**Background:**

On March 3, 2021, the House companion bill of the *Build America's Libraries Act* (H.R. 1581) was formally introduced. This historic legislation would provide \$5 billion in funding to repair, modernize and construct library facilities in underserved and marginalized communities across the nation.

Federal funding for library buildings has not been provided in more than 20 years. The *Build America's Libraries Act* would prioritize funding to communities with high poverty rates, as part of a strategy to begin to reverse decades of underinvestment in communities of color.

**If you have not already done so, we encourage you to [take action](#) today to reach out to your House Representative.**

For more details, click here: <http://www.ala.org/advocacy/buildlibraries>.

To sign your letter, click here: <https://cgrcengage.com/ala/app/write-a-letter?11&engagementId=510529>.

**Take Action**

We hope you will agree that everyone deserves great libraries!

Thank you for your participation and ongoing support of the Buffalo & Erie County Public Libraries. We are open and look forward to seeing you soon.



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