



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ALL STATE FUNDING FOR PUBLIC LIBRARIES IS ELIMINATED

Florida Library Association asks Floridians to voice their opposition

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (MAY 1, 2009) – On April 30, an appropriations conference committee for the House and Senate agreed to eliminate all funding for Florida’s State Aid to Public Libraries program. This devastating action will result in some Florida library branches closing and will seriously cripple libraries’ ability to serve Floridians. It will be especially damaging to libraries in Florida’s rural communities, as these libraries rely heavily on provisions in the program that help communities with lower tax bases.

The Florida Library Association (FLA) is calling on Governor Charlie Crist to use his influence and ask legislative leaders to find a way to fund this critical program, which has helped support public library service to Floridians since 1962.

FLA also calls on Floridians to contact their local representatives to ask them to fund Florida’s State Aid to Public Libraries program so that libraries do not have to close branches around the state. Use the “Find Your Legislators” box at www.flsenate.gov to find your local representatives and their contact information.

In these rough economic times, Floridians need their libraries more than ever. Libraries help citizens with job searches, in obtaining e-Government services, and in teaching our young children to read. They also help parents and caregivers learn to be their child’s first teacher, and provide books, other print materials, DVDs and CDs.

Visit www.flalib.org or call 386-438-5795 for more information.

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