



# Community Libraries of Providence

*Something worth sharing*

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**clpvd.org**

May 7, 2026

The Honorable Louis P. DiPalma, Chair  
Senate Finance Committee  
Rhode Island State House  
82 Smith Street  
Providence RI, 02903

FOX POINT 

KNIGHT MEMORIAL 

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Dear Chair DiPalma and Honorable Members of the Committee:

I am writing in full support of Senate Bill 2812, *An Act Relating to Libraries – State Aid to Libraries*. If enacted, this legislation would require that the State's share of support for public library services in Fiscal Year 2027 be fixed at 25 percent of a municipality's Fiscal Year 2025 library support amount.

In the level-funding scenario proposed by Governor McKee, Community Libraries of Providence (CLPVD) will receive \$1,022,871 vs. \$1,062,500 if the full 25% is restored. The \$39,629 difference is significant to our operating budget. This figure represents 47% of our book budget, or the salary and benefits for one Program Specialist, an essential position that allows us to keep our doors open, while also providing meaningful programs.

The City of Providence increased funding for CLPVD by \$255,000 in FY25; FY27 is the first year that we will be realizing the effect of the municipal increase in our state funding. It is crucial that the state fulfill their obligation to match municipal funding; full state support has been anticipated in budget forecasts and planning.

Public libraries provide high quality programs, resources, and spaces for all community members. In Providence, our libraries even serve as heating and cooling center during significant weather events. I am very grateful that the General Assembly has supported Rhode Island public libraries by restoring the full 25% in state aid for the past several years. I urge you to do the same for next year.

Thank you,



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