



Budget Support Testimony FY2024 – FY2025

Submitted by Janet Carleton, President of the State Library of Ohio Board, to the Senate Workforce and Higher Education Committee

Chairman Cirino, Ranking Member Ingram, and members of the Committee, as the President of the State Library of Ohio Board, I would like to express my support of the proposed budget line items that support the work of the State Library.

[The State Library of Ohio](#) has supported state residents, state employees, state agencies, and public and other libraries in Ohio for over 200 years. The proposed executive budget includes a 5% increase to the State Library's operating budget for this biennium and while not an adequate increase to meet inflation, it would help the Library navigate these current uncertain economic times. We are disappointed that the proposed budget from the House reduced this proposed increase to 3%.

As one of the oldest state agencies, we have served the information and research needs of state government since 1817. As Ohio grew, so did the responsibilities of the agency. These ongoing responsibilities include the development of library services throughout Ohio, the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (now Print Disabled), the Federal Depository Library Program, the Serving Every Ohioan Consortium (SEO), and essential preservation of Ohio's state documents. In addition, we have assumed the leadership role for *all* Ohio libraries—public, school, academic, and special—primarily in the areas of digital content, professional development, and resource sharing.

The State Library of Ohio Board is most grateful to the capable staff that has overseen significant growth and responsibilities with primarily a flat budget for the past several biennia. We extend our gratitude to the governor for the proposed increase of 5% to the State Library of Ohio's General Revenue Fund, as do the partner organizations which are included in the State Library's section of the budget. We ask respectfully that the Senate Workforce and Higher Education Committee reinstate the recommended 5% increase.