



# Willoughby-Eastlake Public Library

We explore. We discover. We connect.

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Dear Senator Cirino:

I am writing from the Willoughby-Eastlake Public Library (WEPL), where I have worked since 2011 and currently serve as the director. We are proud to provide a wide range of services to the communities of Willoughby, Willowick, Eastlake, Willoughby Hills, Lakeline, Timberlake and Waite Hill.

I would like to tell you about some of the important work we do for the above-noted communities, with an emphasis on services to children. I listened to your comments at the Library Legislative Day in April, when you recalled the positive impact a librarian made in your life as a child. At WEPL, we hear many stories like this from people who remember summer reading programs and other activities they experienced when visiting the libraries as children.

Thanks to the excellent work of our qualified children's librarians, with the financial support of our communities combined with the Ohio Public Library Fund (PLF), attendance at children's programs increased by 31% last year. We are responding to this demand by focusing our resources on programs such as "Story, Craft & Play," "Cooking Classes for Kids" and "Adaptive Storytime" for children with disabilities. We also provide public access to important digital resources for kids, including ABCMouse (educational games for young children) and TeachingBooks (children's books in visual text combined with auditory narration).

WEPL and many other libraries in Ohio are doing great work providing literacy skills to help kids succeed in life. The PLF, which comprises about one third of WEPL's budget, is a critical part of this success. I ask that you and the Ohio Senate help Ohio's libraries continue their excellent work for children, and people of all ages, by restoring the Public Library Fund (PLF) to 1.75% of the General Revenue, consistent with Governor DeWine's executive budget proposal.

Sincerely,

Eric Linderman

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