

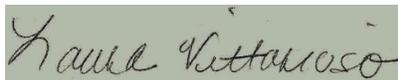
To: The Appropriations and Finance Committee
RE: LD 2212
Subject: Library Services and Technical Support Act

I am expressing concern that the LSTA at the Maine State Library, Director's position for the Talking Books Program may be eliminated. I have been employed for over 45 years working with Maine people who are blind and visually impaired. The Talking Books Program is a vital resource to those who cannot access the printed page. The Talking Books Program is the most sought-after service for the people I serve.

The Director's position for the Talking Books Program is a vital position for technical support as the program is now going to an electronic format. Books will now be downloaded to a new digital player with blue tooth capability. Books can also be downloaded to a tablet or smart phone. The Director is available to consumers and direct service people relative to technical issues for the download capabilities. The Director is responsible for keeping up with new technologies and training library staff. This is a vital position to the maintenance of a very important service to Maine people who are disabled either through vision loss/the inability to access the printed word.

Please consider funding of the Director's Position at the Maine State Libraries Talking Books Program. Federal cuts to important museum and library programs and services will greatly affect Maine people.

Submitted by,

A rectangular box containing a handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Laura Vittorioso".

Laura Vittorioso
Kennebunk, ME

Laura Vittorioso
The Iris Network
LD 2212

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