



Pennsylvania School Librarians Association

**PA House of Representatives HB 740  
“One Certified Librarian Per Public School” Bill**

Working with PSLA, Rep. Mark Longietti and Rep. Thomas Murt have introduced HB 740 **“One Certified Librarian Per Public School.”** The bill would amend the PA Education Code to require state-certified school librarians in every public school in Pennsylvania. We know this will be difficult to pass as there is currently no funding attached. However, this proposed legislation, now in the House Education Committee, brings to the forefront a necessary resource that all students need to learn. Support this effort by contacting your State Representative now.

**The Ask:** Please sign the co-sponsorship memo for HB 740 "One Certified Librarian per Public School."

**The Talking Points:** (use 2 or 3)

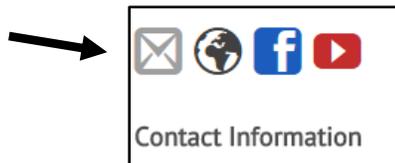
- All students deserve access to quality resources and instruction that a school library program with a certified librarian provides, not just those who live in a wealthy zip code.
- School librarians teach students to evaluate information that they read, see or view, learning how to distinguish reliable and trustworthy information from misinformation and fake news.
- School librarians don't just read stories and check out books, they are teachers who teach skills mandated in Pennsylvania Academic Core Standards, contributing to higher graduation rates.
- In Pennsylvania, prison libraries are required to have certified librarians, but our public school libraries are not.
- School librarians and library programs can close the achievement gap among struggling learners. According to a 2012 study of Pennsylvania reading and writing test scores, students who are poor, black, or Hispanic benefit proportionally more than students generally in schools that have a full-time certified librarian versus those that don't.
- Today, 25% of PA school districts have no school librarian or just one for the entire district. Yet many students in wealthier zip codes have certified librarians who teach them valuable career and college life skills in using and evaluating information, in addition to providing a wealth of books, computing devices, and digital resources.

## Directions for Contacting your PA House Representative:

1. Google "PA Assembly." In the left-hand frame under "House," click on "Address" and type in your home address.



2. Click on the hyperlinked name of your "PA House Rep" and choose the envelope icon for email or the globe to visit the legislator's website to read a bio and then use their web form/webmail.



3. If you are not sending an email via a preformatted web form which asks your name, address, etc., be sure to include your address at the end of the email so the legislator knows you are one of his or her constituents.
4. You can then repeat this process, typing in your school address in step #1 since a different legislator may represent your school. If so, you are representing your staff and students, not the legislative district in which you live. Use the school's address in the email.
5. Try to add a personal message about your school or students and why having certified school librarians is important. Remember to focus on students and their needs.
6. Wait a week and then call their local district office (number found on their website) to see if your Representative has signed the co-sponsorship memoranda.
7. At this point we are only contacting PA House Representative, not Senators.

More details at <http://www.psla.org/membership/psla-legislation/>

Questions? Contact Deb Kachel, PS�A Legislative Liaison, dkachel69@comcast.net