



*People with disabilities working together for dignity, independence, and civil rights*

March 19, 2015

House Appropriations Committee  
House Education Committee

Dear Committee Members,

The Vermont Center for Independent Living serves on the Vermont Center Library Advisory Council of the Special Services Unit (SSU) of the Vermont Department of Libraries.

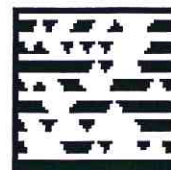
Proposed cuts to Vermont Libraries, and the associated loss of federal funds to programs like the SSU, will impact people who have print and reading-related disabilities – specifically people who are Blind, have developmental disabilities, or for physical reasons cannot access printed materials. Vermonters will have less access to books, technical resources and current news sources.

You will be **limiting access to information for vulnerable Vermonters** who are being devastated by the multiple service losses they are experiencing in the other state agency budget cuts. People losing services and access to information is potentially crippling.

Vermonters with disabilities need, as much as ever, to be gainfully employed, which is intrinsic to full community participation and leadership. These basic needs are reliant on access to current information through services like the NFB Newsline, and the equal access these provide to people who cannot otherwise access print media.

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Vermont does not want to create a state in which only sighted print-reading people who can buy the most current software and computer systems can access its library services.

VCIL is relying on you to safeguard our constitutional right to freedom of the press.

Yours truly,



**Sarah Launderville**  
**Executive Director**