



SENATOR KAREN E. SPILKA
MAJORITY WHIP

Second Middlesex and Norfolk District

September 19, 2013

The Honorable Kathleen O'Connor Ives, Senate Chair
Joint Committee on Tourism, Arts, and Cultural Development
State House, Room 519
Boston, MA 02133

The Honorable Cory Atkins, House Chair
Joint Committee on Tourism, Arts, and Cultural Development
State House, Room 33
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Chairwoman Ives, Chairwoman Atkins, and members of the Committee:

I am writing in support of H.2996 *An Act relative to public library construction funding* and to respectfully request a favorable report from the Committee.

Towns across the state, including Hopkinton in my district, would benefit tremendously from a revitalization of their local library. The last renovation and expansion of the Hopkinton Public Library took place 46 years ago when the town's population was 5,600, and now the facilities are inadequate to meet the demands of the current community of over 15,000. The restrooms are not ADA accessible, and there is no elevator to the 2nd Floor Children's Room. There are only 6 public access computers, and only 28 seats in the entire building to accommodate library patrons. With a growing and thriving population and an increased demand for public resources, a renovation of this beloved downtown staple will provide increased economic and cultural benefits to Hopkinton.

House Bill 2996 would provide \$150 million to fund the construction and renovation of public libraries in the Commonwealth. Of this, Hopkinton is fourth in line to receive \$4.5 million. Across the state, there is an increased need for cost-effective resources to apply for jobs, a safe place for kids to do homework and socialize after school, and a place for seniors to learn new technologies. This funding would help revitalize communities as well as provide a valuable resource for residents and is particularly important for the members of my district.

I hope that you will consider issuing a favorable report on H. 2996. Please feel free to contact me or my office if you would like additional information. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Karen E. Spilka".

Senator Karen E. Spilka
2nd Middlesex & Norfolk

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

MASSACHUSETTS SENATE
OFFICE OF THE MAJORITY WHIP

STATE HOUSE, ROOM 320
BOSTON, MA 02133-1053
TEL. (617) 722-1640
FAX (617) 722-1077

KAREN.SPILKA@MASENATE.GOV
WWW.MASENATE.GOV