



**ASSEMBLY STANDING COMMITTEE ON LIBRARIES AND EDUCATION TECHNOLOGY
NOTICE OF ONLINE VIDEO PUBLIC HEARING**

SUBJECT: COVID-19 and New York State's Libraries

PURPOSE: To examine the impact of COVID-19 on New York State's libraries and library systems

Thursday, November 19, 2020
10:00 AM

Web Link: <https://www.nyassembly.gov/av/live/>

ORAL TESTIMONY BY INVITATION ONLY

In March, a state of emergency was declared in New York State due to the novel coronavirus, COVID-19, requiring libraries to close and shift to virtual services. As the state has begun to reopen, libraries and library systems have resumed providing in-person services again, but with enhanced protocols to ensure the health and safety of library staff and patrons. The Committee seeks testimony on the reopening of libraries and the challenges libraries and library systems have faced due to COVID-19. In addition, the Committee seeks testimony on the critical role libraries have played during this unprecedented time in ensuring digital equity and access to information for all New Yorkers.

Persons invited to present pertinent testimony to the Committee at the above hearing should complete and return the enclosed reply form as soon as possible. It is important that the reply form be fully completed and returned so that persons may be notified of means by which to testify and/or in the event of emergency postponement or cancellation.

Oral testimony will be limited to 5 minutes' duration. In preparing the order of witnesses, the Committee will attempt to accommodate individual requests to speak at particular times in view of special circumstances. These requests should be made on the attached reply form or communicated to Committee staff as early as possible.

Attendees and participants at any legislative public hearing should be aware that these proceedings are video recorded. Their likenesses may be included in any video coverage shown on television or the internet.

In order to further publicize these hearings, please inform interested parties and organizations of the Committee's interest in hearing testimony from all sources.

In order to meet the needs of those who may have a disability, the Assembly, in accordance with its policy of non-discrimination on the basis of disability, as well as the 1990 Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), has made its facilities and services available to all individuals with disabilities. For individuals with disabilities, accommodations will be provided, upon reasonable request, to afford such individuals access and admission to Assembly facilities and activities.

**Sean M. Ryan
Member of Assembly
Chair
Committee on Libraries and Education Technology**

PUBLIC HEARING REPLY FORM

Testimony will only be taken upon approval by the Committee Chair. Individuals who have been invited to present testimony are requested to complete this reply form as soon as possible and email a copy of planned testimony. Individuals invited to participate will be notified within 48 hours of the hearing. All replies and testimony submissions must be emailed to:

Kayli McTague
Committee Assistant
Assembly Committee on Libraries and Education Technology
Email: mctaguek@nyassembly.gov
Phone: (518) 455-4881

- I have been invited to make a public statement at the hearing. My statement will be limited to 5 minutes, and I will answer any questions which may arise.
- I will address my remarks to the following subjects:

- I do not plan to attend the above hearing.
- I would like to be added to the Committee mailing list for notices and reports.
- I would like to be removed from the Committee mailing list.
- I will require assistance and/or handicapped accessibility information. **Please specify the type of assistance required:** _____

ALL INFORMATION BELOW MUST BE COMPLETED:

NAME: _____

TITLE: _____

ORGANIZATION: _____

ADDRESS: _____

E-MAIL: _____

TELEPHONE: _____