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Testimony Submitted To:  
**NYS Legislature Joint Budget  
Committee on Higher Education**

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Chairmen and Members, thank you for this opportunity.

The New York State Higher Education Initiative (NYSHEI) was founded as a partnership for all academic and research libraries in New York. Together, NYSHEI members – from the small community college to the elite research universities – form the information infrastructure of our state.

Governor Cuomo has suggested language in Article VII that would provide much need relief for our libraries, and bring some common sense and cost-efficiencies to procuring information resources.

The executive budget proposal unifies the procurement of all information resources – from electronic data sets to traditional scholarly journals. The reform acknowledges that information is a commodity, not a service or a technology. This builds on the efficiencies adopted last year as part of the SUNY 2020 act.

By streamlining the procurement process the reforms will not only promote efficiency, but actually lowers costs. Clarity and efficiency make public and private collaborations possible like never before. With these reforms our institutions of higher education can better aggregate their purchases and thereby achieve more advantageous price arrangements

We are grateful for the assistance offered by Governor Cuomo. **NYSHEI endorses the procurement reforms in the executive budget proposal and requests that the legislature adopt them in full.**

Yet there are more ways you can help promote access to critical scholarship. I ask you to support establishing **public access to the published results of taxpayer funded research.**

New York taxpayers annually fund more than \$50 million in basic and applied research and projects. This public investment often leads to results that are published in a variety of academic journals.

Because taxpayers underwrite this research they have a right to expect that dissemination and use will be maximized for public benefit, and that they themselves will have access to the published results.

While publically funded research in New York is small compared to the federal investment, the federal government has taken significant steps toward open access policies.

A sterling example of the benefits of open access is the Public Access Policy adopted by the National Institutes of Health (NIH). In establishing free public online access to articles reporting on the results of research for which they paid, taxpayers have a remarkable resource. PubMed Central is a databank of more than two million full-text articles accessed by more than half a million users every day.

New York, by becoming the first among states to adopt an open access policy, would give its research and researchers an advantage over colleagues in other states. Making discovered knowledge more available leads to greater influence as the work is more available for citations. Additionally students, faculty, and the academic institutions themselves will benefit through lower costs and more access to peer-reviewed scholarship.

Finally, I must ask you to restore needed **financial support**.

In 2010, direct state support to academic and research libraries totaled less than \$1.6 million. This amount was set by a formula that has gone unchanged since 1984, and has not been fully funded in years.

These libraries are the information infrastructure our state needs – and if coordinated – it could be the best in the world. Every week 20 million researchers, students, entrepreneurs, and innovators seek the information housed in these libraries. Yet the Empire State only supports this information infrastructure with .0011 percent of the state budget.

When the aid formula for that sole source of academic library support was created a gallon of gas cost \$1.20. I do not believe it is too much to ask that the CCDA formula be funded and updated to a level matching changes in the consumer price index. The application of a 27 year old formula is an embarrassment to us all.

The blue-ribbon Commission on Higher Education issued a report in 2008 that is yet unheeded.

The Commission was charged with promoting academic excellence and making suggestions to "meet the challenges posed by rapidly changing demographic, scientific, technological and economic trends." One clear recommendation emerged.

"Access to electronic information should be expanded throughout the State by facilitating college and university libraries replacement of individual licenses with state-wide shared licenses."

The Commission recognized the tremendous but dormant potential of using the academic and research libraries of the state as our information infrastructure. To facilitate the reach of that info-grid, and to gain dollar saving cost efficiencies, the Commission recommended statewide licensing of electronic information resources.

The procurement reforms proposed by the Governor in Article VII get us two-thirds of the way to the goal of the Commission. When given the chance, both houses of the legislature have voted – on numerous occasions – with unanimous bipartisan support for a statewide information infrastructure.

I thank you for your past support, and ask you to once again demonstrate your commitment to scholarship and innovation. **Accept the Governor's procurement reform recommendations, establish access to taxpayer funded research, and modernize out-dated funding formula.**

Thank you.

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