Good afternoon, library advocates.

Here’s the latest from Harrisburg:

Our executive director, Glenn Miller, and our lobbying team from Greenlee Partners continue to meet with decision-makers in the administration and legislature.  They have visited with cabinet secretaries and legislative leaders and key members of the Appropriations Committees as well as rank and file legislators.

**But our Harrisburg efforts will only succeed if legislators also hear from their constituents**.  This means me—and you—and all of us.  We must turn up the heat to stave off the threat of more budget cuts.

You may remember that in his 2013-14 budget proposal, Governor Corbett recommended level-funding for library programs, the first budget in six years without proposed cuts.  But revenue collections are falling short of projections. This could result in a budget shortfall between $300 and $500 million, perhaps more.  This is not good news and could result in more budget cuts.  Any program which is not mandated by law is in danger of the budget-cutting ax, including libraries.

In this environment, the fact that library funding has already been cut more than 34% over the last four years works to our advantage.  When we remind legislators that **libraries have already paid their dues when it comes to budget cuts**, they know it’s true and agree.

Without our strong voices back home, PaLA’s lobbying efforts in Harrisburg could fall short.  Legislators listen to their constituents.  The good news is, there is still time.  Much of the serious work on the state budget lies ahead.  But we need your help today.  We urge you to [Take Action](http://www.capwiz.com/ala/pa/issues/alert/?alertid=62501711), today and we ask that you share this message with your board, friends, volunteers, personal friends—any and everyone who believes in libraries and who will take a minute or two to send an email message.  In fact, it is especially critical that legislators hear from non-librarian constituents, especially patrons whose lives have been positively impacted by our libraries.

Please don’t put it off.  Now is the time to [Take Action](http://www.capwiz.com/ala/pa/issues/alert/?alertid=62501711).  Thanks!

Janis Stubbs

PaLA First Vice President & Legislative Committee Co-Chair