

The Michigan Library Association strongly opposes the proposal by the Mackinac Center for Public Policy to eliminate state funding for Michigan's public libraries and libraries serving the blind and physically handicapped.

Strong, vital public libraries are an essential part of vibrant communities. Public libraries teach children, serve small businesses and the unemployed, assist the investor, support the entrepreneur and contribute to the quality of life for Michigan residents. Successful states have strong public libraries.

Since our very first constitution the people of Michigan have believed that strong public library service is an essential part of the quality of life and education in our state. Funding for public library service has been a joint state and local responsibility and should remain so.

The Center's call for privatization of our state's public libraries is bad public policy and is bad for Michigan.

MLA will continue to monitor this report and legislative reaction to it.

Michigan Library Association
Public Policy Committee
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