

**A RESOLUTION SUBMITTED BY
LEGISLATOR TAISHA ST. JEAN TARD**

RE: Urging New York State to Protect Library Access to Electronic Literary Materials

WHEREAS, the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library is a profoundly public institution that strives to curate and provide Erie County residents with materials in physical and digital formats; and

WHEREAS, across New York State, libraries have adapted to modern library users' needs and provide digital materials, which improve accessibility, particularly for seniors, individuals with disabilities, residents with limited transportation, and working families; and

WHEREAS, when public libraries purchase licenses for digital materials, many publishers impose restrictive licensing agreements that include high pricing, excessive limits on the number of loans, and restrictions on high-demand titles,

WHEREAS, these current practices significantly increase costs for public libraries and thus the taxpayer, all while reducing the availability of digital resources;

WHEREAS, New York State Senate Bill S.9339, sponsored by Senator Rachel May, and Assembly Bill A.3589, sponsored by Assembly Member Robert Carroll, would amend the Education Law to prohibit certain contractual provisions that restrict access or impose unreasonable licensing terms, which would strengthen consumer protections and ensure that libraries across the state can continue to provide digital materials

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Erie County Legislature hereby expresses its support for New York State Senate Bill S.9339 and Assembly Bill A.3589; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Erie County Legislature urges the New York State Legislature to pass, and the Governor to sign, this important consumer protection legislation to ensure libraries can continue providing access to digital materials; and be it further

RESOLVED, that certified copies of this resolution be transmitted to Governor Kathy Hochul, Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins, Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie, the members of the Western New York Delegation to the New York State Legislature, the New York Library Association, and the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library.