

1. Contact your state representative and state senator.

## 2. Share the message:

I am contacting you today to express my concern for the future of the Voices of Vision Talking Book Center service. The DuPage Library System (DLS) delivers this service to [whom: me, my mother, our library users, etc.].

Secretary of State Jesse White has successfully redistributed grant monies to do as little harm as possible to library grant programs. However, DLS has received less than 3% of the \$460,286 State of Illinois grant that funds this critically important program.

3. Tell your story. Examples of stories we have received are on the back.

## 4. Conclude with the following:

I know that Illinois has serious budget issues as do the residents of our great state. Please understand that the Voices of Vision Talking Book Center service is an **essential** service to [whom: me, my mother, our library users, etc.]. I'm counting on you to help make sure this service remains an indispensable resource for the residents of Illinois for years to come.

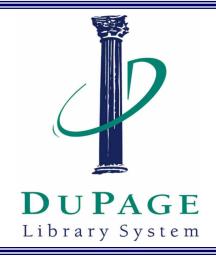
Thank you for your consideration.

## 5. You are done!

For more information about the Voices of Vision Talking Book Center, please contact Tom Sloan, Executive Director, DuPage Library System: tsloan@dupagels.lib.il.us or 630-232-8457 x201.

Some examples of stories shared with Voices of Vision staff:

- "My son uses these services and it has helped him tremendously in school."
- "When my eyes were more cooperative, I kept a book by my chair, one in my purse and one in the car. Now, thanks to **great** people like you, I am enjoying books that come in a green box..."
- "The Talking Books saved my sanity!"
- "Your talking book service...is a Godsend to the blind and physically handicapped population...I think it was about 1938 or thereabouts, when [Helen Keller] made a plea to the Congressmen not to reduce or cut appropriations for the talking books for the blind. Little did I know that I would be one of the beneficiaries of her successful plea..."
- "Thank you! Without these tapes for the last 30 years I don't know what my life would have been like."
- "Thank you for all the wonderful books you send me. They are my lifeline."
- "Thank you for allowing my uncle to enjoy your products and services during the period of blindness he experienced in the last years of his life. My uncle was a great reader throughout his life and being unable to read was a heavy cross for him to bear. Your agency's assistance allowed him at least some of the pleasure he used to enjoy before losing his sight."
- "This is the greatest program that the government has. The best thing I've gotten for my tax money."



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