



LEADING THE WAY
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The Connecticut Library Association (CLA) strongly supports [the Community Passport Services Access Act](#), a bipartisan bill introduced by Congresswoman Madeleine Dean (PA-04) and Congressman John Joyce, M.D. (PA-13) to enable 501(c)(3) association public libraries to continue to serve as passport acceptance facilities.

Public libraries are trusted community institutions that provide essential access to information, civic services, and government resources. Since at least 1999, libraries across Connecticut have offered residents convenient, accessible passport application services—services that have helped families, students, and travelers navigate federal requirements without the burden of long travel times, limited appointment hours, or additional barriers. Libraries like the Ferguson Library in Stamford, Ridgefield Library, Otis Library in Norwich, and Farmington Libraries have assisted thousands of Connecticut residents with this clerical function, and they have done so flawlessly for years.

Unfortunately, recent changes in federal policy enforcement have threatened this vital service, disrupting a national network of trusted local passport acceptance facilities and impacting libraries' ability to support their communities. Passport acceptance facilities at these libraries have received notice of deactivation.

The Connecticut Library Association applauds bipartisan efforts at the federal level to affirm the role of public libraries as passport acceptance facilities and urges Connecticut's congressional delegation to support legislation that explicitly authorizes libraries to continue offering these services. Ensuring that Connecticut families can easily and equitably access passport services through their local libraries honors the spirit of community service that public libraries have long embodied.