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## **We must change our priorities**

We at the Alliance for Children join those who are protesting the cuts proposed for our library budgets while taxpayers are being asked to pay even more for new prisons.

We must demand that our legislators explain the distorted values that allow such priorities.

Marion Wright Edelman asserts in her recent book, "The Measure of Our Success," that each hour in this fiscal year, the federal government is spending \$33.7 million on defense and \$8.7 million on savings and loan bailouts. In the same hour, only \$2.9 million is spent on education and \$1.8 on children's health.

Unless we take responsibility for reversing these figures, the closing of our libraries may be only the first signpost in the decline of our society.

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