



February 12, 2020

Senator Guy J. Guzzone, Chairman
Budget & Taxation Committee
3 West, Miller Senate Office Building

Dear Senator Guzzone:

Wicomico Public Libraries (WPL) strongly supports **SB 466 Public Libraries – State Library Resource Center - Funding** which would continue the periodic increases to the State Library Resource Center (SLRC) per capita funding formula beyond FY 2021. The Enoch Pratt Free Library's Central Library was designated to be the State Library Resource Center in 1971 in an effort to provide and expand access to specialized library materials and services that are necessary for coordinated, efficient, and economical library services in Maryland.

SLRC resources directly benefit Wicomico County residents through interlibrary loan—in FY 19 we received 2,605 items through interlibrary loan. Additionally, SLRC offers access to online resources that WPL would not be able to afford on our own. As a rural county, the broadband Internet access SLRC provides is essential for our job seekers and students. There were 92,135 wireless sessions at WPL—for our residents who cannot get Internet at home this is a critical resource.

Libraries are the third pillar of the education system and SLRC helps WPL build a better future by equipping students, businesses and job seekers with the tools they need to learn and participate in lifelong learning. Please pass this important legislation to assure the continuation of these vital services.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely

Ashley Teagle, Executive Director, Wicomico Public Libraries

cc: members, Senate Budget & Taxation Committee

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