



February 12, 2020

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

Dear Senator Guzzone:

The Caroline County Public Library 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. Access to SLRC services is critical to Maryland libraries and citizens across the state. This is even more critical to smaller, rural library systems like the Caroline County Public Library and our citizens.

In FY 2019, SLRC was visited over 230,000 times, answered over 660,000 reference questions, loaned over 400,000 items, coordinated over 77,000 interlibrary loans, and provided access to specialized databases that were searched more than 6.5 million times. In addition, SLRC provided training for librarians and public programs on various topics to the public which had a combined attendance of over 2,600 people.

SLRC coordinates library services around the state that are filling a critical demand for services by job seekers, small business owners, early literacy, after-school safe places, and free internet and computer access. Library services are vital to successful schools, strong communities and adult education and we encourage passage of this important legislation to assure their continuation.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely

Debby Bennett
Executive Director

cc: members, Senate Budget & Taxation Committee

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North County Branch
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