



**HOWARD COUNTY
LIBRARY SYSTEM**
Public Education for All

February 10, 2020

Senator Guy J. Guzzone, Chairman
Budget & Taxation Committee
3 West, Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Senator Guzzone:

Howard County Library System 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 libraries and citizens across the state. In FY 2019, SLRC was visited more than 230,000 times, answered more than 660,000 reference questions, loaned more than 400,000 items, coordinated more than 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,

Tonya Aikens
President & CEO

cc: members, Senate Budget & Taxation Committee