



House Appropriations Committee
HB 369 Education - State Library Resource Center - Funding
February 15, 2022
Support

Dear Chairman Barnes, Vice-Chair Chang, and Distinguished Members of the Committee:

The Prince George's County Memorial Library System strongly supports **HB 369 Education – State Library Resource Center - Funding** which would continue the periodic increases to the State Library Resource Center (SLRC) per capita funding formula beyond FY 2024.

The Enoch Pratt Free Library's Central Library was designated the State Library Resource Center in 1971 to provide and expand access to specialized library materials and services necessary for coordinated, efficient, and economical library services in Maryland. In FY 2022, SLRC was visited nearly 150,000 times, answered more than 255,000 reference questions, loaned more than 300,000 items, coordinated more than 46,000 interlibrary loans, and provided access to specialized databases that were searched more than 10.6 million times. Unlike most states, Maryland does not have a State Library making access to SLRC services critical to Maryland libraries and citizens across the state.

Prince George's County residents benefit from the statewide interlibrary loan program, Marina, administered by The State Library Resource Center, which allows Maryland residents access to library materials across the state. Another critical benefit of the State Library Resource Center is the broadband Internet access provided to public libraries, schools, and local governments throughout the state. Prince George's County Memorial Library System's staff benefit from the State Library Resource Center's significant support for the Library Associate Training Institute (LATI), enabling library staff with Bachelor's degrees to earn a Maryland Library Associate Certificate. This has enabled Prince George's County Memorial Library System to recruit talented staff members from diverse professional backgrounds that meet the changing needs of our communities and library system.

The State Library Resource Center coordinates library services around the state that fill 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 the passage of this crucial legislation to ensure their continuation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael Gannon". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name and last name clearly legible.

Michael Gannon
Acting Co-CEO
Chief Operating Officer for Support Services

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nicholas Brown". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name and last name clearly legible.

Nicholas Brown
Acting Co-CEO
Chief Operating Officer for Communication and Outreach