



February 13, 2023

House Ways & Means Committee
Delegate Vanessa E. Atterbeary, Chair
Room 131, House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: HB369 – Education – State Library Resource Center - Funding

This letter is in support of HB369 for altering the calculation of funding for the State Library Resource Center (SLRC) for FY2025 – FY2030.

Unlike most states, Maryland does not have a State Library, making access to SLRC services critical to Maryland libraries and citizens across the state. As you know, Caroline County is one of the poorer counties in Maryland. The citizens of Caroline County benefit from the services SLRC provides, including the loan of books and other materials, access to specialized databases and public programs; all beyond what Caroline County Public Library can provide. Caroline County Public Library staff benefit from the professional development training SLRC staff provide. SLRC's SAILOR Internet Network provides broadband internet access to public libraries around the state.

SLRC coordinates equitable 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.

I respectfully ask for your support of HB369 to help SLRC continue it's important work throughout the State.

Sincerely,

Debby Bennett
Executive Director

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p 410.479.1343 f 410.479.1443

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123 Morris Avenue
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p 410.754.8397 f 410.754.3058

North County Branch
101 Cedar Lane • P.O. Box 336
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