



Southern Maryland

Regional Library Association, Inc.

ADVANCING LIBRARY EXCELLENCE

February 13, 2023

Delegate Vanessa E. Atterbeary, Chair
Ways and Means Committee
Room 131, House Office Building

Dear Chairman Atterbeary, Vice Chair Wilkins, and Committee Members,

The Southern Maryland Regional Library strongly supports **HB 369 Education – State Library Resource Center – Funding** which would continue per capita funding increases for the State Library Resource Center (SLRC). SLRC serves Maryland's public, academic, school, and special libraries. It provides statewide resources and services for Maryland libraries and their customers. In Southern Maryland, SLRC plays an essential role in cultivating public libraries and the communities they support. These are a few of the SLRC services that positively impact our region.

Research databases: SLRC provides a collection of research databases to our three public libraries and to the public school systems. All residents have access to a core collection of databases for online language learning, family history research, job and career resources, general research support, STEM support, test preparation and more. In Fiscal Year 2022, Southern Marylanders conducted more than 36,000 sessions with these online resources.

Statewide interlibrary loan: The Marina system, run by SLRC, allows Maryland public library cardholders to request materials not owned by their local public library system from another Maryland public library system. This highly popular sharing arrangement gives our residents access to materials they would not otherwise be able to borrow. We have seen steady growth in the use of this service over the past several fiscal years. From FY 2020 to FY 2022, the number of requests filled has increased 79% to nearly 20,000 items.

Professional Development: SLRC provides a full range of professional development opportunities for Maryland librarians, including online courses, in-person training, and conferences. This training helps librarians navigate issues such as virtual services, COVID coping, customer service, diversity, equity and inclusion, and collection management. This fiscal year nearly 70 Southern Maryland librarians partook in training on improving library services to customers with disabilities and integrating the arts with STEM programming in the library.

SLRC also holds a series of conferences so librarians from across the state can learn about its resources, services, and expertise. A circulation conference covers the latest trends for circulation, support, and reference staff. The SAILOR E-Resource Symposium features the databases and e-resources vital to public electronic resource librarians, public library staff, K-12 teachers and school librarians.

Your support for this bill will help continue the SLRC's great work. Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely

Ashley Teagle
CEO