



Budget and Taxation Committee
SB 348 Public Libraries – State Library Resource Center- Funding
February 15, 2023
Support

Dear Chairman Guzzone and Committee Members,

Kent County Public Library strongly supports **SB 348 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 2024.

Unlike most states, Maryland does not have a State Library making access to SLRC services critical to Maryland libraries and citizens across the state. 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 databased that were searched more than 10.6 million times. In addition, SLRC provided training for librarians and public programs on genealogy and Maryland history to the public which had a combined attendance of nearly 2,800 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 bill.

As one of the smallest counties in Maryland, we could not be as successful without the support of the State Library Resource Center. They have provided funding for vital staff training, material delivery services, and expanded access to eBook collections. We respectfully ask for your support of SB 348, which will allow us to continue to grow our role in supporting equity and access in our communities.

Thank you for your consideration.

V/R,

Arnessa Dowell
KCPL Executive Director