
ROBERT G. CASSILLY
Harford County Executive



ROBERT S. McCORD
Director of Administration

March 5, 2024

Delegate Ben Barnes, Chair
Appropriations Committee
121 Lowe House Office Building
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: House Bill 609 – Education – Public Libraries – Collective Bargaining (Library Workers Empowerment Act)

Dear Chairman Barnes,

Harford County opposes HB609 which would impose collective bargaining and binding arbitration on county library systems. The counties receive less State funding for libraries each fiscal year resulting in increased burden on the counties to support library operations and maintenance. Considering state mandates imposing substantial increases in the costs to the counties for public education, public safety, transportation, and housing, Harford County is not in a position to increase Library funding and will not do so. The probable outcome of this bill will be reduced library staff, reduced library hours, and reduced investment in books and other library resources.

Yours truly,

Robert G. Cassilly

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