

Why community libraries are valuable to the communities they service.

A library's basic functions include the promotion of education, the dissemination of information and the promotion of culture. Promotion of Education: Libraries provide the means of individual self-development and facilitate all modes of education, including formal, non-formal, adult and lifelong education (*Brain. on Jan 10 2018*).

Whether through books, events, programming, or simply providing space for discussion, Northwood Library plays a critical role in expanding knowledge and engaging people in conversation with each other and encouraging them to be active in their communities. The branch is a place where everyone is welcome, and everyone belongs. Modern, purpose-built libraries are cultural and community places that draw diverse groups to one space. Not just Northwood, but all community libraries are of importance to their users since most give free access to patrons to a conducive environment, and are well equipped with facilities and space that can make patrons comfortable while accessing the information materials. Community libraries play an important role in providing safe, accessible, and free information resource centers for every member of communities. Community libraries are a great place to network and socialize.

Networking is one key thing that enables the community to grow socially and economically. Community libraries like Northwood connect people within the community to services and resources. Why are community libraries important for surrounding schools? Northwood branch provides a comfortable learning space for students, and tutor. It gives a student and tutor an opportunity for one-on-one interaction. I read an article that asked a question. Why are libraries important to schools? Studies show a positive relationship between library quality (school and public) and the amount read, as well as a relationship with reading competence. Better libraries mean more literacy development for younger readers as well as for high school students. U.S. National Commission on Libraries and Information Science, Mar 28, 2023, Studies show a positive relationship between library quality (school and public) and the amount read, as well as a relationship with reading competence. Better libraries mean more literacy development for younger readers as well as for high school students. Ask yourself that question, how would increased funding continue to benefit community libraries in the future? To quote R. David Lankes, "Bad libraries build collections, good libraries build services, great libraries build communities."

Veronica edwards

1329 Crofton Road, Baltimore, Md 21239

Juanita L. Addison
5111 Kenilworth Ave.
Baltimore, MD 21212

February 17, 2024

Re: Support of Maryland Senate Bill 848

To Whom It May Concern:

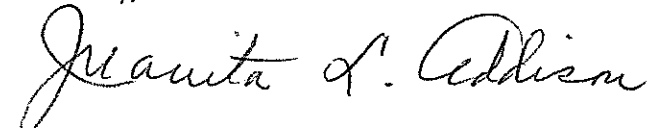
I am writing to express my strong support for Maryland Senate Bill 848, an act concerning capital project funding for Enoch Pratt Free Library.

The Pratt has played an important role in my family's life for nearly 70 years. When my husband and I moved to Baltimore City as a newly married couple in the mid-1950s, Enoch Pratt Free Library became my first employer and a very welcome first step in my 35-year career as a librarian and later as a teacher and school administrator. In the early 1960s, I moved with my husband and two young children to the neighborhood where I still reside, Kenilworth Park, in Baltimore City, within walking distance of the Northwood Branch of the Pratt. As young parents, my husband and I were very pleased to have the library's resources easily available to our children, who often visited the branch with us or with their friends, to work on assignments for school or just to read for fun. The Pratt was, and still is, a safe space for children in all of the communities nearby and was an essential part of the educational foundation for many, including my own children, who went on to complete college, gain good employment and raise their own children in Baltimore.

My husband and I also visited the Northwood branch or other Pratt branches occasionally to do our own research.

The passage of Senate Bill 848 will help ensure that the resources of the Enoch Pratt Free Library will remain relevant and accessible to current and future generations of parents and children in Baltimore, for the benefit of people throughout the city and beyond.

Sincerely,



Juanita L. Addison

Dear Senator M. Washington,

February 15, 2024

I am writing to express my strong support for the Northwood Enoch Pratt Free Library's application for Bill 848: Capital Project Funding. As a member of this community, I have personally experienced the invaluable role that our library plays in enriching the lives of residents and enhancing our collective well-being.

Our library serves as a vital hub for learning, innovation, and community engagement, from providing access to educational resources and technology to allowing community organizations to have meetings and workshops.

This library and the staff are always so friendly and helpful to me. When I needed flyers copied or posted to promote what was going on in the community, they were kind enough to assist me. During the time I went in to get copies of flyers, I was told about computer classes. I have registered to take classes. I love Ms. Brenda Dudley for her kindness and patience in ensuring everyone in the class is able to learn and understand the instructions for computer class. However, the computers are old and take a long time to boot up.

I feel that in order to continue fulfilling its essential mission, our library is in need of crucial infrastructure improvements and upgrades.

I urge you to consider granting funding to this library. Your support will enable our library to continue serving as a beacon of knowledge, opportunity, and enrichment for future generations.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require any further information or would like to discuss this matter in more detail.

Sincerely,



Mrs. Janice Bryant-Baker
1011 Beaumont Avenue
Baltimore, Md. 21212.

I support this Mary L. Baker