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CECIL COUNTY GOVERNMENT

Cecil County Administration Building 200 Chesapeake Boulevard, Elkton, MD 21921

February 14, 2024

The Honorable Brian J. Feldman The Honorable Cheryl C. Kagan Education, Energy and the Environment Committee 2 West Miller Senate Office Building Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: SB 0738 – Freedom to Read Act Letter of Opposition

Dear Chairman Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan and Members of the Education, Energy and the Environment Committee:

The County Council and the County Executive of Cecil County unanimously oppose SB 0738 - Freedom to Read Act. The Hearing on this legislation is scheduled on February 23, 2024.

It is our understanding that this legislation is Establishing the State standards for libraries for the operation of each library that receives funding from the State; altering the duties of the State Library Board, the State Library Agency, and regional resource centers to incorporate the State standards for libraries; making funding for certain libraries contingent on adoption of a written policy consistent with the State standards for libraries; etc.

We strongly believe that the decision on what is provided for our libraries and schools is best left to our families and our local community to decide. Cecil County strongly opposes this legislation.

The County Executive and County Council of Cecil County respectfully request that the Education, Energy and Environment Committee send an unfavorable report on SB 0738.

Sincerely,

Danielle Hornberger County Executive

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Jackie Gregory President of County Council

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