

March 6, 2026

Delegate Ben Barnes, Chair
Appropriations Committee

Dear Chair Barnes, Vice Chair Kaiser, and Committee Members,

I am writing in support of **HB0660 – Public Libraries – State Library Resource Center – Funding**. The State Library Resource Center (SLRC) is a vital part of Southern Maryland’s library ecosystem. The Southern Maryland Regional Library Association (SMRLA) provides a regional materials delivery service to Calvert, Charles, and St. Mary’s Counties. With the support of SLRC, who runs a statewide materials delivery service, our patrons can access library materials from all around the state at no additional cost to them. In FY 2025, Southern Maryland patrons borrowed over 10,000 items. Southern Maryland’s libraries did not have to purchase these items and could instead direct those dollars to other library initiatives.

Statewide materials delivery uses software to coordinate among all the libraries in Maryland. SMRLA is a grateful beneficiary of SLRC’s leadership as they transition to new updated software. SMRLA staff will receive access to the software and training on how to use it, again at no additional cost to SMRLA.

Finally, SMRLA staff regularly attend SLRC’s annual conferences for library workers. These conferences provide free training that keeps library workers up to date on trends and raise awareness of SLRC resources. If SLRC does not receive their funding increase, it would be impossible for SMRLA to carry out these services on our own.

Thank you for your support and consideration.

Sincerely,
Ashley Teagle, CEO