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BILL:	HB0660	DATE:	March 10, 2026
SUBJECT:	Public Libraries – State Library Resource Center - Funding	COMMITTEE:	Appropriations
TESTIMONY FROM:	Carrie Willson, Executive Director, Calvert Library	POSITION:	Support

Dear Chair Barnes, Vice Chair Kaiser and members of the Committee,

I am writing in support of **HB 660 – Public Libraries – State Library Resource Center - Funding**, which provides a per-capita increase to the State Library Resource Center for FY2028–FY2031. Additional funds are essential to sustain this cornerstone institution.

Calvert Library relies on the free high-speed internet provided by SLRC’s Sailor network as do 25 other municipalities, government agencies and schools. We benefit from SLRC’s subject-matter experts for assistance when our customers embark on in-depth research projects, specialized genealogy searches, African-American History research or need access to special collections like sheet music. SLRC librarians also provide high-quality staff training enabling our staff reach their required 90 CEUs every five years.

Calvert Library customers had 127,821 search sessions of premium databases in FY25. These resources are available because SLRC negotiates contracts on behalf of the state’s public and school library users. Without SLRC *staff doing this work, school and public libraries in Maryland would have to spend an additional \$4 million dollars to access these same resources.* Public school teachers rely SLRC databases for access to reliable information and primary source material for History Day projects and teaching information literacy.

SLRC operates a statewide inter-library loan service that exponentially amplifies our ability to get customers the titles they want without over-extending our limited collection budget. Calvert County residents borrowed 3,350 items from other libraries in FY25 saving Calvert Library approximately \$83,000.

SLRC yields an exceptional ROI for Marylanders. I respectfully urge a **favorable report on HB 660.**

Sincerely,

Carrie Willson, Executive Director, Calvert Library

