

CORY V. MCCRAY  
Legislative District 45  
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Budget and Taxation Committee

Capital Budget Subcommittee

Health and Human Services Subcommittee

THE SENATE OF MARYLAND  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

## Vote Yes On Senate Bill 0403

**Bill Title Sales and Use Tax – Elementary or Secondary School Book Fairs – Exemption**  
**Committee: Budget and Taxation Committee**  
**Hearing Date: February 11<sup>th</sup>, 2026**

Dear Chair and Honorable Members of the Committee,

I respectfully submit this testimony in strong support of Senate Bill 403, legislation that promotes literacy, supports student achievement, and strengthens school communities by removing unnecessary financial barriers from schoolbook fairs.

Senate Bill 403 exempts in-person elementary and secondary school book fairs from sales and use tax when proceeds are used for the educational benefit of students. This ensures that more funds remain in schools and are reinvested directly into classrooms, libraries, and academic enrichment programs. Book fairs play a critical role in encouraging reading, building home libraries, and fostering a lifelong love of learning. For many students, particularly those in under-resourced communities, schoolbook fairs are one of the most accessible ways to obtain books. Eliminating sales tax makes books more affordable for families and increases student participation, helping to close opportunity gaps in literacy.

This legislation also supports parent–teacher organizations and school-based nonprofits that rely on book fairs to fund field trips, instructional materials, and student activities. By reducing financial and administrative burdens, the bill strengthens partnerships between families, educators, and schools.

By investing in literacy, educational equity, and community engagement, Senate Bill 403 helps ensure that all Maryland students have access to high-quality learning resources and opportunities to succeed.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Cory V. McCray'.

Cory V. McCray  
45<sup>th</sup> District