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MARYLAND

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Subject: Support for HB 604

To: Members of the House Ways and Means Committee

From: Marguerite Woods

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My name is Marguerite Woods. I am here to ask you to support HB604. This bill will help other people find the library more quickly than I did.

I lost my sight gradually but could no longer read standard size print around 2007. It took me a year or two to find out about the library. I heard about it from another organization that helps blind people called Blind Industries and Services of Maryland. After I learned about the library, I had to be convinced that reading books by audio would be beneficial. I missed print books very much and I missed holding the book, turning the pages, etc. Other blind people had to convince me to give it a try. Once I actually tried audio books, I learned to love reading them. I am an avid reader today.

This bill will help seniors find the library sooner because most people recognize that they have trouble reading. Using the term “blind and print disabled,” rather than “blind and physically handicapped,” clearly lets the public know that this library offers alternative ways to read. The library is a life saver for me and for many other seniors. Unfortunately, my son is in a nursing home. The boredom would be unbearable for him without audio books from the Library for the Blind. Please vote in favor of HB604 so that more seniors and newly blind people will discover this valuable resource and have an enriched life.