



### Ways and Means Committee

### HB196 Public Schools and County Boards of Education – Publication of School Library Catalogs

January 27, 2022

### Oppose

Dear Chairwoman Atterbeary, Vice Chair Washington, and Committee Members,

The Maryland Association of School Librarians (MASL) is writing in **opposition to HB 196 Public Schools and County Boards of Education – Publication of School Library Catalogs**. The bill would require public school libraries to provide a list of titles in their catalog to the county Board of Education which would in turn, “compile certain information” to be posted on the Board’s website. Additionally, each public school would be required to annually inform the parents and guardians where certain information on the school library’s catalog could be found.

Maryland public school libraries openly publish their school library catalogs. School library catalogs are made available on school websites to provide the communities they serve access to the school library catalog and the contents twenty four hours a day, seven days a week. This has been the case for many years. This bill would not change the accessibility of information for parents and guardians.

MASL is also concerned that this proposed bill is a stepping stone toward the censorship attempts that have been seen in other states. The bill states “certain information” will be compiled and posted. Any attempts at censorship within school libraries has been deemed unconstitutional and against the First Amendment as the Supreme Court ruled in Board of Education, Island Tree Union Free School District v. Pico, 457 U.S. 853 (1982).

We respectfully ask for your opposition to HB 196. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Lindsey Weaver, President of Maryland Association of School Librarians  
Tatanisha Love, President-Elect of Maryland Association of School Librarians  
Jennifer Sturge, Past President of Maryland Association of School Librarians