

CORY V. McCRAY  
Legislative District 45  
Baltimore City



James Senate Office Building  
11 Bladen Street, Room 221  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
410-841-3165 · 301-858-3165  
800-492-7122 Ext. 3165  
Cory.Mccray@senate.state.md.us

Budget and Taxation Committee  
Capital Budget Subcommittee  
Health and Human Services Subcommittee

THE SENATE OF MARYLAND  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

**Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 438**

**Young Readers Programs – Establishment (Young Readers Program Expansion Act)**

Dear Chair, vice chair and members of the committee”

I write to urge you to **support** Senate Bill 438. Establishing programs, like the Baltimore City Young Readers Program and Young Readers Matching Grant Program, are invaluable investments into the education and enlightenment of our State’s youth.

Reading, at a young age, is fundamentally important and a foundational part of education. Under Senate Bill 438, there is instruction to establish the Baltimore City Young Readers Program. This program would lie under the Division of Children and Youth, which is within the Governor’s Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services. The bill requires that the program be administered by the Deputy Director of Division to ensure its success. Essentially, the Young Readers Program will gift books, by mail, to children throughout Baltimore City. In essence, this program creates an imaginary library and provides youth with access to high-quality books for their own edification and entertainment. To bolster this effort, Senate Bill 438 also provides for the establishment of the Young Readers Matching Grant Program—which will provide matching grants in support of supplying and operating the book-gifting program.

In gifting books to children throughout the City of Baltimore, this program will open doors many positive possibilities—benefitting interested youth, working families, and our communities. It is an investment into the future, and a present initiative that will provide thousands of children with access to foundational resources.

If enacted, Senate Bill 438 will take effect on October 1, 2022, and will require the adoption of new practices in accordance with the change in law.

In support of Baltimore’s young readers, I respectfully request a favorable report of Senate Bill 438.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Cory V. McCray

State Senator, 45<sup>th</sup> District