

**2023-03-01 Koff SB 502 support letter.pdf**

Uploaded by: Alexander Koff

Position: FAV

March 1, 2023

Chairman Guy J. Guzzone  
Budget & Taxation Committee  
3 West, Miller Senate Office Building

Dear Chairman Guzzone and members of the Budget & Taxation Committee:

I am a Trustee and a member of the Board of Directors of the Enoch Pratt Free Library (the Pratt Library), where I serve as Vice-Chair. Among other committees, I serve on the Legislative Committee. I write to express my strong support for **SB 502 Enoch Pratt Free Library – Capital Project Funding** which would provide much-needed capital funding for library branches.

The branches of the Pratt Library are vital community hubs, helping to stabilize neighborhoods and providing a world of opportunities to users. In Baltimore City, where access to the internet is limited or non-existent, we help bridge our city's digital divide. Through partnerships with Legal Aid, the University of Maryland School of Social Work, and Morgan State University, our libraries provide customers access to social work and legal services. Our presence in the community allows learners of all ages access to information, and our meeting rooms offer non-profit groups space to meet on essential topics for the community.

The Pratt Library operates one of the oldest library systems in the United States, operating out of twenty-two locations of which nineteen—over 86 percent—are more than 50 years old (with six branches over 100 years old). Deferred maintenance adversely affects vital library services. In the last 18 months, we lost approximately 2,200 public service hours due to failing heating and air conditioning systems. The Pratt Library needs to address Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and building code deficiencies. Pratt Library spaces need modernization to provide library services as required today. Flexible spaces are recommended to meet community's changing needs.

I support SB 502 fully and urge the committee to issue a favorable report that would result in improved library facilities that will serve Baltimore City customers for years.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely,



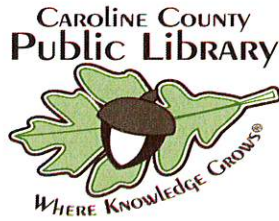
Alexander Koff  
Board of Directors — Vice Chair, Enoch Pratt Free Library  
Board of Trustees, Enoch Pratt Free Library

cc: members, Senate Budget & Taxation Committee

# **SB502 Enoch Pratt Lib capital proj funding\_letter**

Uploaded by: Debby Bennett

Position: FAV



**Senate Budget and Taxation Committee  
SB502 Enoch Pratt Free Library - Capital Project Funding  
February 27, 2023  
Support**

Dear Chairman Guzzone, Vice-Chair Rosapepe and Distinguished Members of the Committee:

This letter is in support of SB502 for the purpose of providing capital funding for certain branches of Enoch Pratt Free Library.

Enoch Pratt Free Library is one of the oldest public library systems in the country. Eight of its facilities are over 100 years old and 14 are over 50 years old. They are undersized, and inadequate to provide the space and services needed in their communities. Many do not meet current Code or ADA requirements. HVAC systems are failing. Enoch Pratt Free Library also acts as our State Library Resource Center, providing services to the other 23 library systems and their citizens in Maryland.

The goal is to have a modern, updated, state of the art library system akin to what is in other counties would usher in generational change for the City of Baltimore residents.

I respectfully ask for your support of SB502.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Debby Bennett'.

Debby Bennett  
Executive Director

[info@carolib.org](mailto:info@carolib.org) • [www.carolib.org](http://www.carolib.org)

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Central Library  
100 Market Street  
Denton, Maryland 21629  
p 410.479.1343 f 410.479.1443

Federalsburg Branch  
123 Morris Avenue  
Federalsburg, Maryland 21632  
p 410.754.8397 f 410.754.3058

North County Branch  
101 Cedar Lane • P.O. Box 336  
Greensboro, Maryland 21639  
p 410.482.2173 f 410.482.2634

**SB502 Support Letter\_Rosen.docx.pdf**

Uploaded by: Emily Rosen

Position: FAV

February 28, 2023

Chairman Senator Guy J. Guzzone

Budget & Taxation Committee

3 West, Miller Senate Office Building

Dear Chairman Guzzone and members of the Budget & Taxation Committee:

I am writing to voice my strong support for **SB 502 Enoch Pratt Free Library – Capital Project Funding** which would provide much needed capital funding for the Enoch Pratt Free Library.

Libraries are vital community hubs, helping to stabilize neighborhoods and providing a world of opportunities to customers. In Baltimore City, where access to the internet is limited or non-existent for up to 40% of households, the Pratt Library is helping bridge the digital divide. Through partnerships with Maryland Legal Aid, the University of Maryland School of Social Work and School of Nursing, as well as Morgan State University, Pratt customers can get access to social workers, legal services, and healthcare consultations right in their own community. The Pratt gives learners of all ages free access to information and resources. The Library meeting rooms allow non-profit groups to gather and discuss essential optics for the community.

In addition to the programs mentioned above, The Pratt is currently developing a Community Pantry program. The first location will be operated out of the Southeast Anchor Branch, in a space formerly used as a cafe. This program will provide an incredibly vital and diverse neighborhood with free access to produce and pantry items, as well as other necessities. This funding would help The Pratt grow this program to other branches.

The Enoch Pratt Free Library operates one of the oldest library systems in the United states. 19 library locations are more than 50 years old, six are over a century old. The deferred maintenance at these locations has resulted in lengthy closures, depriving entire communities of library resources for months at a time. In the last 18 months alone, the Pratt *lost approximately 2,200 public service hours* due to failing heating and air conditioning systems. In addition, many libraries are not ADA compliant and have building code deficiencies. The Pratt needs funding to modernize library spaces to meet the growing demands of the community.

I fully support SB 502 and urge the committee to issue a favorable report that would result in improved library facilities that would serve customers in Baltimore City for years to come.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Emily Rosen

# **SB502 Support Letter GK.pdf**

Uploaded by: Gordon Krabbe

Position: FAV





ENOCH PRATT  
free LIBRARY

Chairman Senator Guy J. Guzzone

March 1, 2023

Budget & Taxation Committee

3 West, Miller Senate Office Building

Dear Chairman Guzzone and members of the Budget & Taxation Committee:

I am writing to voice my strong support for **SB 502 Enoch Pratt Free Library – Capital Project Funding** which would provide much needed capital funding for the Enoch Pratt Free Library.

Libraries are vital community hubs, helping to stabilize neighborhoods and providing a world of opportunities to customers. In Baltimore City, where access to the internet is limited or non-existent for up to 40% of households, the Pratt Library is helping bridge the digital divide. Through partnerships with Maryland Legal Aid, the University of Maryland School of Social Work and School of Nursing, as well as Morgan State University, Pratt customers can get access to social workers, legal services, and healthcare consultations right in their own community. The Pratt gives learners of all ages free access to information and resources. The Library meeting rooms allow non-profit groups to gather and discuss essential optics for the community.

The Enoch Pratt Free Library operates one of the oldest library systems sin the United states. 19 library locations are more than 50 years old, six are over a century old. The deferred maintenance at these locations has resulted in lengthy closures, depriving entire communities of library resources for months at a time. In the last 18 months alone, the Pratt *lost approximately 2,200 public service hours* due to failing heating and air conditioning systems. In addition, many libraries are not ADA compliant and have building code deficiencies. The Pratt needs funding to modernize library spaces to meet the growing demands of the community.

I fully support SB 502 and urge the committee to issue a favorable report that would result in improved library facilities that would serve customers in Baltimore City for years to come.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Gordon E. Krabbe, Chief Operating Officer, Enoch Pratt Free Library

# **SB0502 Letter of Support.pdf**

Uploaded by: Heidi Daniel

Position: FAV



ENOCH PRATT  
free LIBRARY

Chairman Senator Guy J. Guzzone  
Budget & Taxation Committee  
3 West, Miller Senate Office Building

March 1, 2023

Dear Chairman Guzzone and members of the Budget & Taxation Committee:

I am writing to voice my strong support for **SB 502 Enoch Pratt Free Library – Capital Project Funding** which would provide much needed capital funding for the Enoch Pratt Free Library.

Libraries are vital community hubs, helping to stabilize neighborhoods and providing a world of opportunities to customers. In Baltimore City, where access to the internet is limited or non-existent for up to 40% of households, the Pratt Library is helping bridge the digital divide. Through partnerships with Maryland Legal Aid, the University of Maryland School of Social Work and School of Nursing, as well as Morgan State University, Pratt customers can get access to social workers, legal services, and healthcare consultations right in their own community. The Pratt gives learners of all ages free access to information and resources. The Library meeting rooms allow non-profit groups to gather and discuss essential optics for the community.

The Enoch Pratt Free Library operates one of the oldest library systems sin the United states. 19 library locations are more than 50 years old, six are over a century old. The deferred maintenance at these locations has resulted in lengthy closures, depriving entire communities of library resources for months at a time. In the last 18 months alone, the Pratt *lost approximately 2,200 public service hours* due to failing heating and air conditioning systems. In addition, many libraries are not ADA compliant and have building code deficiencies. The Pratt needs funding to modernize library spaces to meet the growing demands of the community.

I fully support SB 502 and urge the committee to issue a favorable report that would result in improved library facilities that would serve customers in Baltimore City for years to come.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Heidi Dantel

Chief Operating Officer

**Scherr.2023-02-27 SB 502 Support Letter V3.pdf**

Uploaded by: Jeffrey Scherr

Position: FAV

March 1, 2023

Chairman Guy J. Guzzone  
Budget & Taxation Committee  
3 West, Miller Senate Office Building

Dear Chairman Guzzone and Members of the Budget & Taxation Committee:

I am an Enoch Pratt Free Library Board member, and I strongly support **SB 502 Enoch Pratt Free Library – Capital Project Funding** which would provide much-needed capital funding for library branches.

The branches of the Enoch Pratt Free Library are vital community hubs, helping to stabilize neighborhoods and providing a world of opportunities to users. In Baltimore City, where access to the internet is limited or non-existent, we help bridge our city's digital divide. Through partnerships with Legal Aid, the University of Maryland School of Social Work, and Morgan State University, our libraries provide customers access to social work and legal services. Our presence in the community allows learners of all ages access to information, and our meeting rooms offer non-profit groups space to meet on essential topics for the community.

The Enoch Pratt Free Library operates one of the oldest library systems in the United States, operating out of nineteen locations that are more than 50 years old (six branches are over 100 years old). Deferred maintenance adversely affects vital library services. In the last 18 months, we lost approximately 2,200 public service hours due to failing heating and air conditioning systems. The library needs to address ADA and building code deficiencies. Library spaces need modernization to provide library services as required today. Flexible spaces are recommended to meet community's changing needs.

We fully support SB 502 and urge the committee to issue a favorable report that would result in improved library facilities that will serve Baltimore City customers for years.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Jeffrey H. Scherr

JHS:kts

# **Support Letter re SB502Schmoke EPFL-Capital Fundin**

Uploaded by: Kurt Schmoke

Position: FAV



March 1, 2023

Chairman Guy J. Guzzone  
Budget & Taxation Committee  
3 West, Miller Senate Office Building

Dear Chairman Guzzone and members of the Budget & Taxation Committee:

I am an Enoch Pratt Free Library Board member, and I strongly support **SB 502 Enoch Pratt Free Library – Capital Project Funding** which would provide much-needed capital funding for library branches.

The branches of the Enoch Pratt Free Library are vital community hubs, helping to stabilize neighborhoods and providing a world of opportunities to users. In Baltimore City, where access to the internet is limited or non-existent, we help bridge our city's digital divide. Through partnerships with Legal Aid, the University of Maryland School of Social Work, and Morgan State University, our libraries provide customers access to social work and legal services. Our presence in the community allows learners of all ages access to information, and our meeting rooms offer non-profit groups space to meet on essential topics for the community.

The Enoch Pratt Free Library operates one of the oldest library systems in the United States, operating out of nineteen locations that are more than 50 years old (six branches are over 100 years old). Deferred maintenance adversely affects vital library services. In the last 18 months, we lost approximately 2,200 public service hours due to failing heating and air conditioning systems. The library needs to address ADA and building code deficiencies. Library spaces need modernization to provide library services as required today. Flexible spaces are recommended to meet community's changing needs.

We fully support SB 502 and urge the committee to issue a favorable report that would result in improved library facilities that will serve Baltimore City customers for years.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Kurt L. Schmoke  
President

# **Enoch Pratt SB 502 Letter\_Mark Caplan.pdf**

Uploaded by: Mark Caplan

Position: FAV



# Mark M. Caplan

March 1, 2023

Chairman Guy J. Guzzone  
Budget & Taxation Committee  
3 West, Miller Senate Office Building

Dear Chairman Guzzone and members of the Budget & Taxation Committee:

I am an Enoch Pratt Free Library Board member. I strongly support **SB 502 Enoch Pratt Free Library – Capital Project Funding** which would provide much-needed capital funding for library branches.

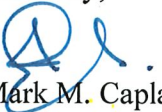
Libraries are vital community hubs, helping to stabilize neighborhoods and providing a world of opportunities to users. In Baltimore City, where access to the internet is limited or non-existent for our customers, we help bridge that digital divide. Through partnerships with Legal Aid, the University of Maryland School of Social Work, and Morgan State, our customers can access social work and legal services in the community. Our presence in the community allows learners of all ages access to information, and our meeting rooms allow non-profit groups space to meet on essential topics for the community.

The Enoch Pratt Free Library operates one of the oldest library systems in the United States, operating out of 19 locations that are more than 50 years old (six are over 100 years old). The deferred maintenance at those locations has resulted in the need to close libraries for long periods. In the last 18 months, we lost approximately 2,200 public service hours due to failing heating and air conditioning systems. There is significant need to address ADA and building code deficiencies. Library spaces need modernization to allow for library services required today, flexible spaces that meet each community's needs.

We fully support SB 502 and urge the committee to issue a favorable report that would result in improved library facilities that will serve Baltimore City customers for years.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Mark M. Caplan

**Scully.Document\_2023-02-26\_101501.pdf**

Uploaded by: Mary Ann Scully

Position: FAV

March 1, 2023

Chairman Guy J. Guzzone  
Budget & Taxation Committee  
3 West, Miller Senate Office Building

Dear Chairman Guzzone and members of the Budget & Taxation Committee:

I am an Enoch Pratt Free Library Board member, and I strongly support **SB 502 Enoch Pratt Free Library – Capital Project Funding** which would provide much-needed capital funding for library branches.

The branches of the Enoch Pratt Free Library are vital community hubs, helping to stabilize neighborhoods and providing a world of opportunities to users. In Baltimore City, where access to the internet is limited or non-existent, we help bridge our city's digital divide. Through partnerships with Legal Aid, the University of Maryland School of Social Work, and Morgan State University, our libraries provide customers access to social work and legal services. Our presence in the community allows learners of all ages access to information, and our meeting rooms offer non-profit groups space to meet on essential topics for the community.

The Enoch Pratt Free Library operates one of the oldest library systems in the United States, operating out of nineteen locations that are more than 50 years old (six branches are over 100 years old). Deferred maintenance adversely affects vital library services. In the last 18 months, we lost approximately 2,200 public service hours due to failing heating and air conditioning systems. The library needs to address ADA and building code deficiencies. Library spaces need modernization to provide library services as required today. Flexible spaces are recommended to meet community's changing needs.

We fully support SB 502 and urge the committee to issue a favorable report that would result in improved library facilities that will serve Baltimore City customers for years.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Mary Ann Gully".

**SB 502 testimony -DeKuyper.pdf**

Uploaded by: Mary DeKuyper

Position: FAV

**MARY H. DeKUYPER**  
**4422 UNDERWOOD ROAD**  
**BALTIMORE, MARYLAND 21218-1150**  
**CELL: 410-905-4475**  
**EMAIL: maryhdekuyper@gmail.com**

March 1, 2023

Chairman Guy J. Guzzone  
Budget & Taxation Committee  
3 West, Miller Senate Office Building

Dear Guzzone and members of the Budget and Taxation Committee,

I am a long-term trustee of the Enoch Pratt Free Library Board, and I strongly support **SB 502 Enoch Pratt Free Library – Capital Project Funding** which would provide much needed capital funding for library branches.

Libraries are vital community hubs, helping to stabilize neighborhoods and providing a world of opportunities to users. In Baltimore City, where access to the internet is limited or non-existent for our customers, we help bridge that digital divide. Through partnerships with Legal Aid, The University of Maryland School of Social Work, and Morgan State University, our customers can access social work and legal services in the community. Our presence in the community allows learners of all ages access to information, and our meeting rooms allow non-profit groups space to meet on essential topics for the community.

The Enoch Pratt Free Library operates one of the oldest library systems in the United States, operating out of 19 locations that are more than 50 years old (six are over 100 years old). The deferred maintenance at those locations has resulted in the need to close libraries for long periods. In the last 18 months, we lost approximately 2,200 public service hours due to failing heat and air conditioning systems. There is significant need to address ADA and building code deficiencies. Library spaces need modernization to allow for the library services required today, flexible spaces that meet each community's needs.

I fully support SB 502 and urge the committee to issue a favorable report that would result in improved library facilities that will serve Baltimore City customers for years.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Mary H. DeKuyper  
Trustee

cc: members, Senate Budget & Taxation Committee.

**SB502 Support Letter\_M Farmer AMENDED.pdf**

Uploaded by: Mychelle Farmer

Position: FAV

March 1, 2023

Chairman Guy J. Guzzone  
Budget & Taxation Committee  
3 West, Miller Senate Office Building

Dear Chairman Guzzone and members of the Budget & Taxation Committee:

I am the Chair of the Boards for Enoch Pratt Free Library, and I strongly support **SB 502 Enoch Pratt Free Library – Capital Project Funding** which would provide much-needed capital funding for library branches.

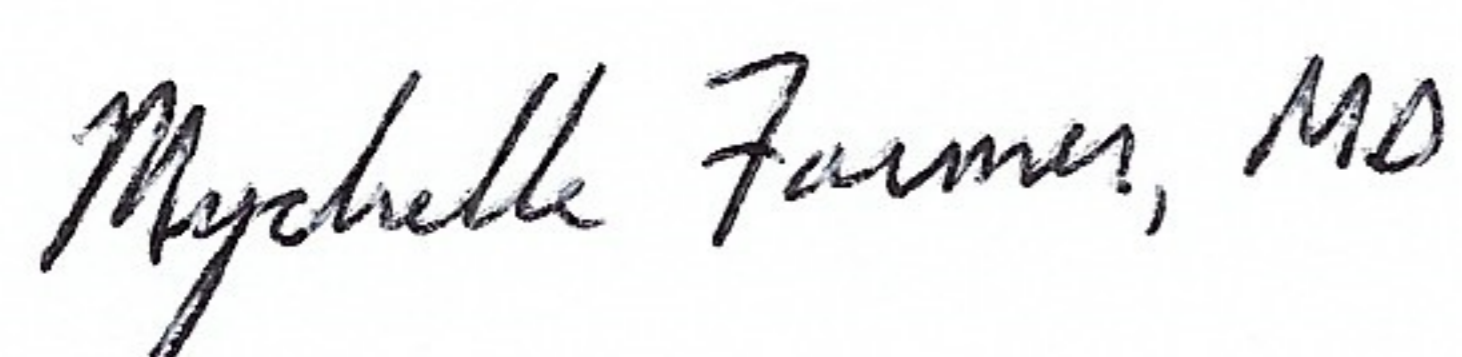
The branches of the Enoch Pratt Free Library are vital community hubs, helping to stabilize neighborhoods and providing a world of opportunities to users. In Baltimore City, where access to the internet is limited or non-existent, we help bridge our city's digital divide. Through partnerships with Legal Aid, the University of Maryland School of Social Work, and Morgan State University, our libraries provide customers access to social work and legal services. Our presence in the community allows learners of all ages access to information, and our meeting rooms offer non-profit groups space to meet on essential topics for the community.

The Enoch Pratt Free Library operates one of the oldest library systems in the United States, operating out of twenty-two locations, of which nineteen—over 86 percent—are more than 50 years old (with six branches over 100 years old). Deferred maintenance adversely affects vital library services. In the last 18 months, we lost approximately 2,200 public service hours due to failing heating and air conditioning systems. The library needs to address ADA and building code deficiencies. Library spaces need modernization to provide library services as required today. Flexible spaces are recommended to meet community's changing needs.

We fully support SB 502 and urge the committee to issue a favorable report that would result in improved library facilities that will serve Baltimore City customers for years.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Mychelle Farmer, MD  
Chair of the Boards, Enoch Pratt Free Library

# **2023.3.1. Dorman.PRATT SB 502-CAPITAL PROJECT FUN**

Uploaded by: Nancy Dorman

Position: FAV



# NANCY DORMAN

1329 PARK AVENUE, BALTIMORE, MARYLAND 21217

March 1, 2023

Honorable Guy J. Guzzone  
Chairman, Budget & Taxation Committee  
3 West, Miller Senate Office Building

Dear Chairman Guzzone and members of the Budget & Taxation Committee,

I am an Enoch Pratt Free Library Board member, and I strongly support **SB 502 Enoch Pratt Free Library – Capital Project Funding** which would provide much-needed capital funding for our library branches. This funding would have a huge, positive, and enduring impact on our city.

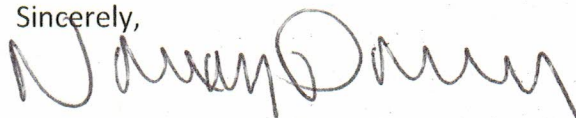
The branches of the Enoch Pratt Free Library are vital community hubs, helping to stabilize neighborhoods and providing a world of opportunities for users. In Baltimore City, where access to the internet is limited or non-existent, we help bridge our city's digital divide. Through partnerships with Legal Aid, the University of Maryland School of Social Work, and Morgan State University, our libraries provide customers access to social work and legal services. Throughout the city, we provide safe, accessible and free educational resources and information for everyone. Our meeting rooms offer non-profit groups space to meet on essential topics for the community.

The Enoch Pratt Free Library operates one of the oldest library systems in the United States, with nineteen locations that are more than 50 years old (six branches are over 100 years old). Deferred maintenance adversely affects vital library services. In the last 18 months, we lost approximately 2,200 public service hours due to failing HVAC systems. The library needs to address ADA and building code deficiencies. Library spaces need modernization to provide library services as required today. Flexible spaces are recommended to meet community's changing needs.

We fully support SB 502 and urge the committee to issue a favorable report.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely,



TELEPHONE 410.669.6268 E-MAIL [NANCYDORMAN@COMCAST.NET](mailto:NANCYDORMAN@COMCAST.NET)

**Hackerman.2023-03-01 SB 502 support letter\_V3[44].**

Uploaded by: Nancy Hackerman

Position: FAV

March 1, 2023

Chairman Guy J. Guzzone  
Budget & Taxation Committee  
3 West, Miller Senate Office Building

Dear Chairman Guzzone and members of the Budget & Taxation Committee:

I am a member of the Board of Directors of the Enoch Pratt Free Library (the Pratt), where I serve as Vice-Chair. Among other committees, I serve on the Legislative Committee. I write to express my strong support for **SB 502 Enoch Pratt Free Library – Capital Project Funding** which would provide much-needed capital funding for library branches.

The branches of the Pratt are vital social and educational community hubs, helping to stabilize neighborhoods and providing a world of opportunities to users. In Baltimore City, where access to the internet is limited or non-existent, we help bridge our city's digital divide. Through partnerships with Legal Aid, the University of Maryland School of Social Work, and Morgan State University, our libraries provide customers access to social work and legal services. Our presence in the community allows learners of all ages access to information, and our meeting rooms offer non-profit groups space to meet on essential topics for the community.

The Pratt operates one of the oldest library systems in the United States, operating out of twenty-two locations of which nineteen—over 86 percent—are more than 50 years old (with six branches over 100 years old). Deferred maintenance adversely affects vital library services. In the last 18 months, we lost approximately 2,200 public service hours due to failing heating and air conditioning systems. The Pratt needs to address Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and building code deficiencies. Pratt spaces need modernization to provide library services as required today. Flexible spaces are recommended to meet community's changing needs.

I support SB 502 fully and urge the committee to issue a favorable report that would result in improved library facilities that will serve Baltimore City customers for years.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Nancy Hackerman

cc: members, Senate Budget & Taxation Committee

# **SB 502.Ryer Itr.pdf**

Uploaded by: Rylie Shewbridge

Position: FAV

**Brandon M. Scott**  
Mayor



**Chris Ryer**  
Director

March 1, 2023

Chairman Senator Guy J. Guzzone  
Budget & Taxation Committee  
3 West, Miller Senate Office Building

Dear Chairman Guzzone and members of the Budget & Taxation Committee:

I am writing to voice my strong support for **SB 502 Enoch Pratt Free Library – Capital Project Funding** which would provide much needed capital funding for the Enoch Pratt Free Library. Libraries are vital community hubs, helping to stabilize neighborhoods and providing a world of opportunities to customers. In Baltimore City, where access to the internet is limited or non-existent for up to 40% of households, the Pratt Library is helping bridge the digital divide. Through partnerships with Maryland Legal Aid, the University of Maryland School of Social Work and School of Nursing, as well as Morgan State University, Pratt customers can get access to social workers, legal services, and healthcare consultations right in their own community. The Pratt gives learners of all ages free access to information and resources. The Library meeting rooms allow non-profit groups to gather and discuss essential optics for the community.

The Enoch Pratt Free Library operates one of the oldest library systems in the United states. 19 library locations are more than 50 years old, six are over a century old. The deferred maintenance at these locations has resulted in lengthy closures, depriving entire communities of library resources for months at a time. In the last 18 months alone, the Pratt *lost approximately 2,200 public service hours* due to failing heating and air conditioning systems. In addition, many libraries are not ADA compliant and have building code deficiencies. The Pratt needs funding to modernize library spaces to meet the growing demands of the community.

This bill is particularly important as it would leverage the City's annual capital funding for the library to match \$10 million in State funding. This would allow the library to continue providing critical services to Baltimore's citizens and maintain the necessary infrastructure. The library system is currently undertaking an assessment of its facilities, which will allow it to use these funds for strategic and responsible improvements to its branches.

In conclusion, we strongly support Senate Bill 502 and would like to ask you to give it favorable consideration. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or if we can provide any further information.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Chris Ryer", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Chris Ryer, Director

**SB502.NealNaff.pdf**

Uploaded by: Rylie Shewbridge

Position: FAV



The Sandra and Malcolm Berman  
Brain & Spine Institute

**Neal J. Naff, MD, FACS**  
Chief, Department of Neurosurgery  
LifeBridge Health

March 1, 2023

Chairman Guy J. Guzzone  
Budget & Taxation Committee  
3 West, Miller Senate Office Building

Dear Chairman Guzzone and members of the Budget & Taxation Committee:

I am an Enoch Pratt Free Library Board member, and I strongly support **SB 502 Enoch Pratt Free Library – Capital Project Funding** which would provide much-needed capital funding for library branches.

The branches of the Enoch Pratt Free Library are vital community hubs, helping to stabilize neighborhoods and providing a world of opportunities to users. In Baltimore City, where access to the internet is limited or non-existent, we help bridge our city's digital divide. Through partnerships with Legal Aid, the University of Maryland School of Social Work, and Morgan State University, our libraries provide customers access to social work and legal services. Our presence in the community allows learners of all ages access to information, and our meeting rooms offer non-profit groups space to meet on essential topics for the community.

The Enoch Pratt Free Library operates one of the oldest library systems in the United States, operating out of nineteen locations that are more than 50 years old (six branches are over 100 years old). Deferred maintenance adversely affects vital library services. In the last 18 months, we lost approximately 2,200 public service hours due to failing heating and air conditioning systems. The library needs to address ADA and building code deficiencies. Library spaces need modernization to provide library services as required today. Flexible spaces are recommended to meet community's changing needs.

We fully support SB 502 and urge the committee to issue a favorable report that would result in improved library facilities that will serve Baltimore City customers for years.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Neal J. Naff".

Neal J. Naff, MD, FACS

# **Valentine.Friends of the Enoch Pratt Free Library**

Uploaded by: Rylie Shewbridge

Position: FAV



Friends of the Enoch Pratt Free Library, Inc.  
P. O. Box 23841, Baltimore, Maryland 21203

March 1, 2023

Chairman Guy J. Guzzone  
Budget & Taxation Committee  
3 West, Miller Senate Office Building

Dear Chairman Guzzone,

The Friends of the Enoch Pratt Free Library strongly support **SB 502 Enoch Pratt Free Library - Capital Project Funding**. We have been a vital support for the Pratt for 50 years and are excited about celebrating our 50th Golden Jubilee Anniversary this year. While we are truly excited about the increase in access to our libraries and facilities to a number of diverse constituents, it has also created another opportunity to rethink the need for 21st Century learning spaces.

Currently, there are 19 library facilities that are more than 50 years old which demonstrates the aging of the buildings, wear and tear of the facilities, and the need to prioritize planning for renovations and upgrades in the near future. It is also critical that learning spaces be redesigned to meet the needs of underserved communities, non-profits and other community partners. Additionally, many libraries functioned with faulty air and heating systems which resulted in its closure for undetermined periods of time. As a result of the closure we lost about 2,200 public service hours. These gaps in service created further inequities for black and brown students to receive high quality literacy services.

The Friends of the Pratt Library is proud of our legacy of supporting closing the achievement gaps, particularly for marginalized groups of students and communities.

Your full support and vote of **SB 502** ensures that the Enoch Pratt Free Library will continue to be a destination for hundreds and thousands of readers all across Maryland.

Thank you for your continued support and advocacy.

Sincerely,

*-flo*

Flo Valentine, President  
Friends of the Enoch Pratt Free Library