

# WESTERN MARYLAND Regional Library



February 15, 2023  
Senator Guy J. Guzzone, Chairman  
Budget & Taxation Committee  
3 West, Miller Senate Office Building

Dear Chairman Guzzone, Vice Chair Rosapepe, and Committee Members,

The Western Maryland Regional Library strongly supports **SB 348 Public Libraries – State Library Resource Center - Funding** which would continue per capita funding increases for the State Library Resource Center (SLRC). SLRC serves Maryland's public, academic, school, and special libraries. It provides statewide resources and services for Maryland libraries and their customers. In Western Maryland, SLRC plays an essential role in cultivating public libraries and the communities they support. These are a few of the SLRC services that positively impact our region.

Research databases: SLRC provides a collection of research databases to our three public libraries and to the public school systems. All residents have access to a core collection of databases for online language learning, family history research, job and career resources, general research support, STEM support, test preparation and more.

Statewide interlibrary loan: The Marina system, run by SLRC, allows Maryland public library cardholders to request materials not owned by their local public library system from another Maryland public library system. This highly popular sharing arrangement gives our residents access to materials they would not otherwise be able to borrow.

Professional Development: SLRC provides a full range of professional development opportunities for Maryland librarians, including online courses, in-person training, and conferences. This training helps librarians navigate issues such as virtual services, COVID coping, customer service, diversity, equity and inclusion, and collection management.

SLRC also holds a series of conferences so librarians from across the state can learn about its resources and services. A circulation conference covers the latest trends for circulation, support, and reference staff. The SAILOR E-Resource Symposium features the databases and e-resources vital to public electronic resource librarians, public library staff, K-12 teachers and school librarians. Your support for this bill will help continue the SLRC's great work. Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Elizabeth M. Hulett'.

Elizabeth M. Hulett  
Director  
Western Maryland Regional Library