

February 15, 2023

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

Dear Senator Guzzone:

Carroll County Public Library supports **SB 348 Public Libraries – State Library Resource Center - Funding** which would continue the periodic increases to the State Library Resource Center (SLRC) per capita funding formula beyond FY 2024.

Unlike most states, Maryland does not have a State Library, making access to SLRC services critical to Maryland libraries and citizens across the state. In FY 2022, SLRC was visited nearly 150,000 times, answered more than 255,000 reference questions, loaned more than 300,000 items, coordinated more than 46,000 interlibrary loans, and provided access to specialized databased that were searched more than 10.6 million times. In addition, SLRC provided training for librarians and public programs on genealogy and Maryland history to the public which had a combined attendance of nearly 2,800 people.

The State Library Resource Center was designated in 1971 to provide and expand access to specialized library materials and services that are necessary for coordinated, efficient, and economical library services in Maryland.

The services provided by SLRC allow libraries across Maryland to support successful schools, strong communities, workforce development, and adult education. We strongly encourage passage of this important legislation to assure the continuation of these vital services.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely

*Andrea*

Andrea Berstler  
Executive Director

cc: members, Senate Budget & Taxation Committee