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Testimony in support of SB0348, Education – State Library Resource Center – Funding
Hearing before the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee
February 15, 2023
Submitted by Carrie Willson

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

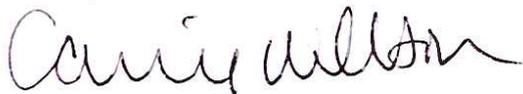
Calvert Library strongly supports **SB 348 Education – State Library Resource Center - Funding** which would continue the periodic increases to the State Library Resource Center (SLRC) per capita funding formula beyond FY 2023. The Enoch Pratt Free Library’s Central Library was designated to be the State Library Resource Center in 1971 in an effort to provide and expand access to specialized library materials and services that are necessary for coordinated, efficient, and economical library services in Maryland.

The citizens of Calvert County benefit greatly from the services offered by the SLRC. From internet access to the databases that our librarians, customers and K-12 students use on a daily basis, to training on topics like identifying fake news, the resources and staff of the SLRC are invaluable to us and to our users. SLRC coordinates library services around the state like inter-library loan that bring thousands of unique titles to Calvert residents that we, as their local library, cannot provide. SLRC provides training for our staff on workforce development and services for small business owners that magnify our local resources.

This legislation provides continued investment in our State Library Resource Center which is, in turn, an investment in libraries, public school students and library users around the state.

Thank you very much for your consideration and continued support of Maryland libraries.

Sincerely,



Carrie Willson
Executive Director, Calvert Library

