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Education, Energy and the Environment Committee
SB846 – Libraries - Circulation Records - Inspection, Use, or Disclosure Requirement
Revision
February 22, 2023
Support

Dear Chair Feldman, and Vice Chair Kagen, and Distinguished Committee Members:

I am writing in Support of SB846 Libraries - Circulation Records - Inspection, Use, or Disclosure Requirement Revision.

This bill updates the language in statute 23=108 to more effectively prohibit inspection, use, or disclosure of a circulation record of a public library or any other item, collection, or grouping of information about an individual. It is meant to ensure that library records remain confidential unless certain standards are met. This revision updates the language and builds in components of the Public Information Act contained in Title 4 of the General Provisions Article, specifically § 4-308 Library records.

As a Director of a public library, I, as well as my Board of Trustees, rely on this statute for guidance to handle requests from government officials, law enforcement officials or the general public for access to circulation records of our library customers. This statute greatly protects our library users' confidentiality. The statute allows library staff to require that law enforcement or other interested parties obtain a subpoena in order to see these records.

I respectfully ask for your support of SB846, which will keep library records confidential more effectively.

Thank you for your consideration.

Janet Salazar
Director
Queen Anne's County Library