



Senator Brian J. Feldman, Chair
Senator Cheryl C. Kagan, Vice-Chair
Education, Energy and the Environment Committee
2 West, Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

February 15, 2023

Dear Senator Feldman, Senator Kagan, and members of the Committee:

I am writing to add my voice to those asking for your support in passing **SB846 - Libraries - Circulation Records - Inspection, Use, or Disclosure Requirement Revision**, in order that public libraries might better ensure the privacy of the circulation records of our patrons.

In the Ruth Enlow Library's statement of values, "Privacy" is listed as a major principle. Indeed, privacy is considered by our parent organization, the American Library Association, as "the bedrock foundation for intellectual freedom." The adjustments proposed to Education Code Section 23-108 will better define the parameters under which patron records may be disclosed outside Library operations - only in the event of subpoena, court order, or with the written consent of the individual in question. The trust of our patrons is invaluable to us, and this bill would help to reinforce that trust in a world in which it is in short supply.

Thank you once again for your ongoing support of Maryland's libraries and the people they serve!

Sincerely,



Thomas Vose
Director, Ruth Enlow Library of Garrett County