

Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
SB0846 – Libraries – Circulation Records – Inspection, Use, or Disclosure Requirement Revision
February 22, 2023

Dear Chair Feldman, and Vice Chair Kagen and Committee members:

I am writing in **Support of SB0846 Libraries – Circulation Records – Inspection, Use, or Disclosure Requirement Revision**

A core principle, fundamental to every library, is privacy. All customers who enter a library do so with the expectation that the books they read and the questions they ask will remain private. SB0846 updates the current statute to more effectively prohibit inspection, use, or disclosure of a circulation record. Under this bill, the inspection, use, or disclosure of a circulation record is permitted only (1) if necessary for the reasonable operation of the library; (2) on written consent of the individual; or (3) by subpoena or court order. This clear language will provide the guidance necessary to library directors and library boards to handle requests from government officials, law enforcement officials, or the general public.

Libraries have been, and continue to be, one of the most trusted government institutions. SB0846 ensures that will continue to be the case while at the same time providing direction when requests for records are made.

Sincerely,



Elizabeth Hulett

Director

Western Maryland Regional Library