



ENOCH PRATT
free LIBRARY

Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
SB 831 - Libraries - Regional Resource Centers
February 22, 2023
Support

Dear Chairman Feldman and Committee Members,

I am writing in support of SB 831 Libraries - Regional Resource Centers which bring Maryland's regional libraries into compliance with community-based, principled governance structures that employ best practices for a non-profit entity funded by taxpayers.

This legislation ensures the continuance of strong and adaptive regional libraries whose trustees' valued skill sets directly contribute to mission accomplishment and to the libraries' prominence in their region. It allows regional libraries to recruit board members who can advance the regional library agenda. It broadens and elevates the regional library as an entity mindful of larger community issues such as economic development, health, transportation, and public safety--versus looking internally to county library issues. Additionally, this bill will ensure even greater input from both participating libraries and the community as to what services are needed from the regional libraries.

The Enoch Pratt Free Library also serves as the State Library Resource Center, the hub of the state library network providing specialized service to libraries and customers around the State. This legislation would support our partners, the Regional Resource Centers who collaborate with us daily on service delivery.

We respectfully ask for your support of SB 831 and thank you for your consideration

Sincerely

Heidi Daniel
Chief Executive Officer