



February 5, 2023

Maryland House of Delegates
6 Bladen St.
Annapolis, MD. 21401

In Support of HB 276 / SB 205: Education – Libraries - Funding

Members of the Maryland House of Delegates Ways and Means Committee.

We are an organization of military and non-military families with over 1500 members support this effort to support and bolster the operations of our local libraries. Increasing the per capita amount given to libraries is the correct use of this money, as the library systems all over the state add to the richness of the communities that they serve, in so many ways.

They are no longer the quiet, musty places that many recall from decades in the past. An updated and modern library system is the beating heart of the community that it serves. The modern library is a place that serves many needs as food pantries, community service programs such as food pantries, offering diapers and baby products to needy families. Story times and other education events geared toward children of all ages including touch a truck events. They are also a resource for literacy services and offer assistive technologies to residents who need them. Libraries also offer adult and student education programs on a variety of topics, homework help and research resources for school aged students. They also help citizens to find jobs, write a resume or update a cover letter. So many services that are offered and many do not know about like space for meetings, a place for telecommuters and small business owners who work from home a place to; commune and socialize.

We ask the committee to return a favorable report and support our public libraries. Thank you for your time, and for considering our testimony today.

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