



January 29, 2024

Delegate Guy Guzzone, Chair  
Delegate James Rosapepe, Vice Chair  
Budget and Taxation Committee  
Miller Senate Office Building

Dear Delegate Guzzone and Delegate Rosapepe:

I am the Chief Executive Officer of the Enoch Pratt Free Library and strongly support SB 434 Public Libraries - State Library Resource Center - Funding which would continue the periodic increases to the State Library Resource Center (SLRC) per capita funding formula beyond FY 2025.

The Enoch Pratt Free Library's Central Library was designated to be the State Library Resource Center in 1971 in an effort to provide and expand access to specialized library materials and services that are necessary for coordinated, efficient, and economical library services in Maryland. Unlike most states, Maryland does not have a State Library making access to SLRC services critical to Maryland libraries and citizens across the state. In FY 2022, SLRC was visited nearly 150,000 times, answered more than 255,000 reference questions, loaned more than 300,000 items, coordinated more than 46,000 interlibrary loans, and provided access to specialized databases that were searched more than 10.6 million times. In addition, SLRC provided training for librarians and public programs on genealogy and Maryland history to the public which had a combined attendance of nearly 2,800 people.

SLRC coordinates library services around the state that are filling a critical demand from Maryland citizens for services for job seekers, small business owners, early literacy, after-school safe places, and free internet and computer access. Library services are vital to successful schools, strong communities and adult education and we encourage passage of this important legislation to assure their continuation.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Heidi Daniel  
Chief Executive Officer