

SLRC Funding SB434 2024 Carroll County.pdf

Uploaded by: Andrea Berstler

Position: FAV



Budget and Taxation Committee
SB 434 Education – State Library Resource Center - Funding
February 15, 2023

Dear Chairman Guzzone, Vice Chair Rosapepe, and Committee Members,

I am writing to ask for your favorable support of SB 434 Education – State Library Resource Center - Funding. This bill provides necessary funding for the State Library Resource Center for FY2024-FY2030.

The State Library Resource Center (SLRC) provides many important services to public and school libraries across the state, including broadband internet and digital resources. It is a highly collaborative system that maximizes return on state and local dollars and allows county library systems to operate most efficiently.

SLRC is an extremely well utilized, economical and cost-effective way to connect all Marylanders with a multitude of valuable services, including workforce education, small business training, historical and special collections that pertain to Maryland as well as programs, database access and inter-library loan services.

Last year, SLRC loaned more than 300,000 items and facilitated 46,000 inter-library loans- an essential service that SLRC coordinates throughout the state which allows libraries to share books and other resources from county to county. With a limited budget for print collections in Carroll County, we rely heavily on SLRC's inter-library loan service to connect citizens with the resources they need to create individual and community success.

Additionally, SLRC provides database access to all county public library systems throughout the state. Last year, Marylanders performed more than 10.6 million searches using high quality databases provided by SLRC. For Carroll Countians, this includes access to Heritage Quest, Mango Foreign Languages, and Gale reference databases. Although essential for our citizens, we would never be able to broker these databases as a stand-alone county.

Libraries across the state appreciate SLRC's leadership in expanding digital equity throughout the state and training library staff to deliver in-demand 21st century library services. Your committee's support for their current and future funding will ensure they are able to meet these goals and that no citizen, or county public library system, is left behind. Thank you for your past support of the State Library Resource Center's mission and funding and we ask that you favorably recommend SB348 for passage.

Sincerely,

Andrea Berstler, Executive Director

KCPL SB434 Support.pdf

Uploaded by: Arnessa Dowell

Position: FAV



Testimony in FAVOR of
SB 434 Public Libraries – State Library Resource Center- Funding
January 30, 2024

Dear Chairman Guzzone, Vice Chair Rosapepe, and Committee Members,

Kent County Public Library strongly supports **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 2024.

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 2023, SLRC reach grew as the library was visited nearly 214,000 times, answered more than 286,000 reference questions, circulated more than 345,000 items, facilitated more than 72,000 interlibrary loans transactions, and provided access to specialized databased that were searched more than 9.3 million times. Each area outside of database usage show a collective average increase of almost 30%. 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 3,500 people.

SLRC coordinates library services around the state that are filling a critical demand for services by 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 bill.

As one of the smallest counties in Maryland, we could not be as successful without the support of the State Library Resource Center. They have provided funding for vital staff training, material delivery services, and expanded access to eBook collections. We respectfully ask for your support of SB 434, which will allow us to continue to grow our role in supporting equity and access in our communities.

Thank you for your consideration.

V/R,

Arnessa Dowell
KCPL Executive Director

SB0434 Support Education - State Library Resource

Uploaded by: Ashley Teagle

Position: FAV



Southern Maryland Regional Library Association, Inc.

Advancing Library Excellence

January 30, 2024

Senator Guy Guzzone, Chair
Budget and Taxation Committee
3 West
Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Chairman Guzzone, Vice Chair Rosapepe, and Committee Members,

I am writing in support of **SB0434 – Education – State Library Resource Center – Funding**. The State Library Resource Center is an integral part of Maryland's library network.

Previously, the Southern Maryland Regional Library Association (SMRLA) was not part of the delivery route for Maryland Interlibrary Loan (MILO). This required SMRLA to ship materials back to the State Library Resource Center for materials that were borrowed from outside of Southern MD. At an increased cost of \$80,000, the State Library Resource Center provided direct delivery to not only the Southern MD region but also to our colleagues in the western part of the state. This is a tremendous cost savings to SMRLA that will allow us to expand our own services to Southern MD's libraries.

Another service that is beneficial to libraries is access to online resources. In FY 2023, the State Library Resource Center funded Gale Educational Databases had over 1,000,000 uses; Heritage Quest (a genealogy database) had 276,654 downloads; and Mango Languages was used over 94,000 times. These resources provide continued opportunities for learning outside of traditional library hours and the data illustrates that more and more library customers are taking advantage of online resources at their libraries. To provide this level of access to information comes at a significant cost—between FY 2021 and FY 2022, the cost of the Gale resources increased 43% in spite of regular and ongoing price negotiations between the State Library Resource Center and the vendor.

With increased usage comes increased costs as it relates to library resources. If the State Library Resource Center does not secure their budget increases, it will be a budget cut for them. Additionally, a budget cut will disproportionately affect my partner libraries in Southern MD because we are unable to sustain the State Library Resource Center's level of services on our own. For these reasons, SMRLA supports the passage of this bill.

Thank you for your consideration.

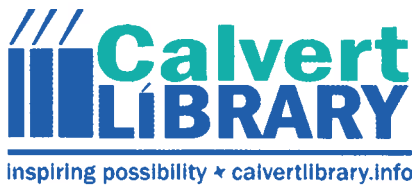
Sincerely,

Ashley Teagle
CEO

Letter in support of SB434_C Willson.pdf

Uploaded by: Carrie Willson

Position: FAV



Carrie Willson, Executive Director • cwillson@calvertlibrary.info
850 Costley Way • Prince Frederick, MD 20678 • 410-535-0291 • 301-855-1862

Senator Guy Guzzone
Senate Budget and Taxation Committee
3 West-Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

January 30, 2024

RE: Senate Bill 434 Education – State Library Resource Center - Funding

Dear Chairman Guzzone and Members of the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee,

On behalf of the citizens of Calvert County, I respectfully request support of **Senate Bill 434 Education – State Library Resource Center - Funding**. The resources and expertise that all Maryland residents have access to from Enoch Pratt Free Library and the State Library Resource Center (SLRC) are invaluable. The public library and the school system in Calvert, and across the state, rely on SLRC to provide access to educational databases. In FY23, Calvert Library recorded nearly 55,000 uses of SLRC-provided databases. That figure doesn't include the uses from the public school system whose students can rely on the Gale databases for primary source references. Cost for Gale databases increased by 43% between FY21 and FY22. These resources are relied upon by Maryland residents and funding must be increased to allow this resource sharing to continue.

Databases are only one of the many resources that my library relies on from SLRC. We also use the SLRC internet connection, as does our local government, the physical collection, the expertise of subject-matter expert librarians, Inter-Library Loan and the high-quality training provided by SLRC.

I urge your support for SB 434 which will provide the increases in funding necessary for the State Library Resource Center to sustain its current level of services to public libraries, public schools and local governments.

Sincerely,

Carrie Willson
Executive Director, Calvert Library



SLRC funding support SB434.pdf

Uploaded by: Dana Newman

Position: FAV



Dana Newman
Director

100 West Dover Street
Easton, MD 21601

Telephone
410-822-1626
Fax
410-820-8217

**Senate Budget and Taxation Committee
SB434 State Library Resource Center Funding
January 29, 2024
Support**

January 30, 2024

Chair Guzzone, Vice Chair Rosapepe and members of the Committee:

The Talbot County Free Library strongly supports SB434 State Library Resource Center - Funding which provides necessary funding for the State Library Resource Center.

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 FY22, 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.

In FY23, SLRC provided public libraries across Maryland access to Gale educational databases which had 144,053 uses in public K-12 schools and 922,456 uses in public libraries. The cost for SLRC to provide access to these databases increased by 43% between FY21 and FY22. SLRC coordinates library services around the state that are filling a critical demand for services by 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.

While the total funding for this program is small when compared to other education institutions, it has resulted in SLRC being able to support public libraries across the state. Investing in libraries is investing in employment, literacy, health, and the overall economy of all counties and jurisdictions in Maryland. I respectfully request that you fully support the State Library Resource Center's request for funding. SLRC provides direct support to the Talbot County Free Library (TCFL) by providing innovative programs to our patrons including programs on history and virtual reality, provides access to many eResources and databases that a small rural library could not afford on its own, provides regular staff development workshops and conferences, and provides access and coordination for thousands of interlibrary loans for our patrons that as a small library system we are unable to purchase for our collection among a number of other services. The support that SLRC gives in particular to small, rural libraries is invaluable.

Thank you very much for your continued support of Maryland libraries and the SLRC.

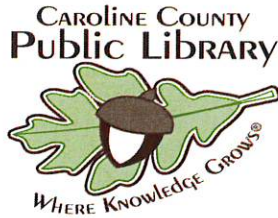
Sincerely,

Dana Newman
Director

SB434-SLRC funding_letter of support_CaroCoPubLib_

Uploaded by: Debby Bennett

Position: FAV



**Senate Budget and Taxation Committee
SB434 State Library Resource Center Funding
January 30, 2024
Support**

Dear Chairman Guzzone, Vice-Chair Rosapepe and Distinguished Members of the Committee:

This letter is in support of SB434 for altering the calculation of funding for the State Library Resource Center (SLRC) for FY2025 – FY2030.

Unlike most states, Maryland does not have a State Library, making access to SLRC services critical to Maryland libraries and citizens across the state. As you know, Caroline County is one of the poorer counties in Maryland. The citizens of Caroline County greatly benefit from the services SLRC provides, including the loan of books and other materials, access to specialized databases and public programs; all beyond what Caroline County Public Library can provide. Caroline County Public Library staff benefit from the professional development training SLRC staff provide. SLRC's SAILOR Internet Network provides broadband internet access to public libraries around the state.

SLRC coordinates equitable library services around the state that are filling a critical demand for services by 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.

I respectfully ask for your support of SB434 to help SLRC continue it's important work throughout the State.

Sincerely,

Debby Bennett
Executive Director

info@carolib.org • www.carolib.org

Central Library
100 Market Street
Denton, Maryland 21629
p 410.479.1343 f 410.479.1443

Federalsburg Branch
123 Morris Avenue
Federalsburg, Maryland 21632
p 410.754.8397 f 410.754.3058

North County Branch
101 Cedar Lane • P.O. Box 336
Greensboro, Maryland 21639
p 410.482.2173 f 410.482.2634

SB 434 - SLRC funding.pdf

Uploaded by: Elizabeth Hulett

Position: FAV



Budget and Taxation Committee
SB434 – Education – State Library Resource Center - Funding
January 31, 2024

Dear Chair Guzzone, and Vice Chair Rosapepe, and Committee members:

I am writing in **Support of SB434 Education – State Library Resource Center - Funding**

The Western Maryland Regional Library (WMRL) strongly supports **SB434 Education – State Library Resource Center - Funding** which would alter the calculation of certain funding for the State Library Resource Center. It has been years since SLRC has received a funding formula increase while costs have continued to rise that threatens its ability to function at the high level it has for many years. SLRC serves Maryland's public, academic, school, and special libraries. It provides statewide resources and services for Maryland libraries and their customers. In Western Maryland, SLRC plays an essential role in cultivating public libraries and the communities they support. These are just a few of the SLRC services that positively impact our region.

Research databases: SLRC provides a collection of research databases to our three public libraries and to the public school system. All residents have access to a core collection of databases for online language learning, family history research, job and career resources, general research support, test preparation, and more.

Statewide interlibrary loan: The Marina system, run by SLRC, allows Maryland public library cardholders to request materials not owned by their local public library system from another Maryland public library system. This highly popular sharing agreement gives our residents access to materials they would not otherwise be able to borrow. We have seen a steady growth in the use of this service over the past several fiscal years.

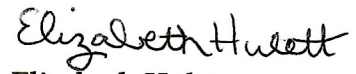
Professional Development: SLRC provides a full range of professional development opportunities for Maryland librarians, including online courses, in-person training, and conferences. This training helps librarians navigate issues such as virtual library services, customer service, diversity, equity, and inclusion, and collection management.

Delivery of Materials: This past year SLRC took on the full cost of delivering all of WMRL's Interlibrary loan materials. This has had a major positive impact on WMRL's budget and the efficiency of the delivery system. As the smallest of the Regional libraries, WMRL relies heavily on the services SLRC provides.

Maryland public libraries are among the strongest, if not the strongest system of public libraries in the nation. This is due in large part to the continued support of the Maryland

General Assembly and its support of The State Library Resource Center for which I am very grateful. I respectfully ask for your support of SB434.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Elizabeth Hulett".

Elizabeth Hulett

Director

Western Maryland Regional Library

KCPL SB434 Support EC.pdf

Uploaded by: Erin Counihan

Position: FAV



**Testimony in FAVOR (FAV) of
SB 434 Public Libraries – State Library Resource Center- Funding
January 30, 2024**

Dear Chairman Guzzone, Vice Chair Rosapepe, and Members of the Committee,

As Secretary of the Kent County Public Library Board of Trustees, I would like to express my support for **SB 434 Public Libraries – State Library Resource Center – Funding**, to continue the periodic increases to the State Library Resource Center (SLRC) per capita funding formula beyond FY 2024.

In my professional life, I am an educator who studies adolescent literacy, so libraries and their services are a large part of what I do, study, and teach. And, unfortunately, in working with students and educators in Kent and Queen Anne’s Counties, I see that there is a gap between need and access – to libraries and their services, to information, and to technology and the internet. Rural residents without public transportation are always challenged in gaining access – something that SLRC helps provide, in interlibrary loan, in internet access, and in database subscriptions. They also work to maintain important Maryland history documents and train librarians in how to use them.

SLRC fills a gap in Maryland without a State Library. They supplement some of what small counties and small libraries can’t provide, making us all stronger and more able to meet our own patrons’ needs. A stronger library can mean more programming and more access to information for librarians and patrons – a stronger community.

As our Executive Director has reminded the Board of Trustees, Kent is the smallest county in Maryland in so many ways, and “we could not be as successful without the support of the State Library Resource Center. They have provided funding for vital staff training, material delivery services, and expanded access to eBook collections. We respectfully ask for your support of SB 434, which will allow us to continue to grow our role in supporting equity and access in our communities.”

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Erin M. Counihan
Board of Trustees, Secretary

Signed - Testimony Letter SB 434 (SLRC).pdf

Uploaded by: Heidi Daniel

Position: FAV



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

SB434 Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: James Kelly

Position: FAV



FREDERICK
COUNTY
PUBLIC
LIBRARIES

Budget and Taxation Committee
SB 434 Education – State Library Resource Center – Funding
January 30, 2024

Dear Chairman Guzzone, Vice Chair Rosapepe, and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to ask for your favorable support of **SB434 Education – State Library Resource Center – Funding** which provides necessary funding for the State Library Resource Center (SLRC) FY 2025 – 2031.

SLRC provides many important services to public and school libraries across the state. It is a highly collaborative system that maximizes return on state and local dollars and allows county library systems to operate most efficiently.

SLRC is an extremely well utilized, economical, and cost-effective way to connect all Marylanders with a multitude of valuable services. In Frederick County, we rely heavily on SLRC's interlibrary loan service for our customers to access the titles they need from libraries across the state. This reciprocal borrowing program enables all Maryland libraries to better serve their customers.

Additionally, SLRC provides database and broadband access to all county public library systems throughout the state. Frederick County Public Libraries does not have the financial resources necessary to provide the breadth of eContent that SLRC makes available. Furthermore, the broadband access is critical given that there are pockets of Frederick County that still lack broadband availability and, in areas where it does exist, the service is cost prohibitive for many families.

Your committee's support of SLRC's current and future funding ensures that no citizen is left behind. Thank you for your past support of SLRC's mission. We ask that you favorably recommend SB434 for passage.

Sincerely,
James Kelly, Director, Frederick County Public Libraries

Administrative Offices
110 East Patrick Street, Frederick, MD 21701
P 301.600.1613 F 301.600.3789 www.fcpl.org

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Director

James Kelly

Support Letter SB 0434 - Education-State Library R

Uploaded by: Janet Salazar

Position: FAV

Budget and Taxation Committee
SB 0434 Education – State Library Resource Center – Funding - Favorable
January 31, 2024

Dear Chairman Guzzone, Vice Chair Rosapepe, and members of the committee,

The Queen Anne's County Library supports SB 0434 Education – State Library Resource Center - Funding which would continue the periodic increases to the State Library Resource Center (SLRC) per capita funding formula for FY 2025 through FY 2031.

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.

Maryland Interlibrary Loan (MILO) provides pickup, delivery, and coordination of borrowing throughout the state. Anyone in the state with a library card to any public library can request books from any other library including SLRC. This system also facilitates national and international borrowing. Queen Anne's County residents and library users around the state rely on SLRC to deliver the many books that our local library cannot find space for on our shelves or afford to purchase. SLRC anticipates that delivery charges will continue to rise along with gas prices and contractual driver wages.

A service that Queen Anne's County Library relies heavily upon is the educational databases for libraries and public schools that SLRC provides at no cost to our library system. In FY23 14,084 sessions of these databases were logged by Queen Anne's County Library patrons. One heavily used collection is the Gale Educational Databases, which provides full-text, abstracts, and indexes that are integrated with core titles in every major academic concentration, from art and literature to economics and the sciences as well as new vocational/technical titles used by community college students, high school and middle school students, and lifelong learners. The cost of the Gale databases increased by 43% between FY21 and FY22. SLRC will be re-negotiating their three-year contract in FY25 and expects a similar increase.

SLRC coordinates library services around the state that are filling a critical demand for services by 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. Queen Anne's County residents rely on these services and this funding is crucial to maintaining and expanding this service.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Janet Salazar
Director
Queen Anne's County Library

Written Testimony in Favor of SB 434_Feb_2024.pdf

Uploaded by: Jennifer Ranck

Position: FAV

**Written Testimony in Favor of SB 434
Education – State Library Resource Center – Funding**

Chair Guzzone, Vice Chair Rosapepe, and members of the Committee,

I write in strong support for this bill. As the director of the Worcester County Library, I can attest to the State Library Resource Center's (SLRC) ability to provide high-quality library service to every corner of our state. SLRC expands access to specialized library materials and services that are necessary for coordinated, efficient, and economical library services in Maryland.

SLRC provides Marylanders of all ages access to educational databases, genealogy databases, language learning databases, and vocational databases through their local libraries and K-12 schools. They provide the internet backbone for all public libraries as well as many other municipalities and government agencies. Millions of books and library materials are shared across the state because of the delivery system SLRC provides. Increased costs put these services at risk.

SLRC has not received a funding formula increase in years. This legislation provides continued investment in SLRC which is, in turn, an investment in libraries, public school students, and library users around the state.

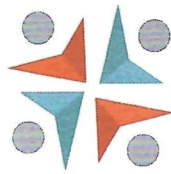
Thank you very much for your consideration and continued support of Maryland libraries.

Sincerely,
Jennifer Ranck

SB434_Education_SLRC_Funding_WCFL_Favorable.pdf

Uploaded by: Jenny Bakos

Position: FAV



WASHINGTON COUNTY
FREE LIBRARY

Where People & Possibilities Meet

January 31, 2024

Senator Guy J. Guzzone, Chairman
Budget & Taxation Committee
3 West, Miller Senate Office Building

Dear Chairman Guzzone, Vice Chair Rosapepe and Committee Members,

The Washington County Free Library supports **SB 434 Education – State Library Resource Center - Funding** which would continue the periodic increases to the State Library Resource Center (SLRC) per capita funding formula beyond FY 2024.

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.

The importance of SLRC cannot be overstated: in FY 2023, SLRC provided over one million sessions from educational databases to public schools and libraries; these databases vary in topic, but include genealogy, language learning and legal forms specific to Maryland. One of the largest providers of database information had a massive 43% increase in cost, which SLRC had to absorb to continue providing fantastic resources.

SLRC also provides many other critical services, including housing the State's "last copy" collection. These materials allow Marylanders access to rare and historic texts relevant to Maryland history. SLRC coordinates library services around the state that are filling a critical demand for services by 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

Jenny L. Bakos
Executive Director
Washington County Free Library and Western Maryland Regional Library

SB 434-Favorable.pdf

Uploaded by: John Taube

Position: FAV



Budget and Taxation Committee
Senate Bill 0434
Education - State Library Resource Center - Funding
January 31, 2024
Favorable

Dear Chairperson King and Distinguished Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Allegany County Library System and the citizens we serve, I am writing in favor of the annual increases called for in **SB 434, Education - State Library Resource Center - Funding**. This bill provides necessary funding for the State Library Resource Center for fiscal years 2025 through 2031.

The State Library Resource Center (SLRC) provides many important services to public and school libraries across the state. SLRC is used by all Marylanders offering many valuable services, including workforce and small business training, historical and special collections that pertain to Maryland, programs, database access and inter-library loan services. With a limited budget for print collections and databases in Allegany County, we rely heavily on SLRC's inter-library loan service to connect citizens with the resources they need to create individual and community success.

In Western Maryland, SLRC has recently expanded its services to provide Interlibrary Loan Delivery directly to our region of the state. This allows Allegany County customers to quickly receive books from around the state with no additional cost to them or the library system. The many services and databases that SLRC makes available to schools and libraries around the state are offered at no cost to the schools or libraries. The ever increasing cost to provide these services makes passing SB 434 imperative to the continued success of SLRC and its ability to serve the state.

Thank you for your past support of the State Library Resource Center's mission and funding and we ask that you favorably recommend SB434 for passage.

Sincerely,

John E. Taube,
Executive Director

SB 434 Letter of Support 1_31_24.pdf

Uploaded by: Lloyd Jansen

Position: FAV

Budget and Taxation Committee**SB 434 Education - State Library Resource Center - Funding****January 31, 2024**

Dear Chairman Guzzone, Vice Chair Rosapepe, and Committee Members

I am writing to ask for your favorable support of **SB 434 Education – State Library Resource Center - Funding**. This bill provides necessary funding for the State Library Resource Center for FY2025-FY2031.

The State Library Resource Center (SLRC) provides a wealth of invaluable services to schools and public libraries across the state, including access to educational databases at no cost to them. These include Gale Educational Databases, the Heritage Quest genealogy database, and Mango Languages. Altogether, these databases were used nearly 1.5 million times by library customers and students in FY23.

SLRC provides internet connection services utilizing high speed fiber to all public libraries in Maryland as well as to 25 municipalities and government agencies throughout the state at no cost to the recipients.

Maryland Interlibrary Loan (MILO) provides pickup, delivery, and coordination of borrowing throughout the state. Anyone in the state with a library card to any public library can request books from any other library, including SLRC.

SLRC offers 70 different programs for the public on a wide variety of topics. SLRC staff will drive anywhere in the state to provide these programs to the public from any school or library, and also offer them virtually. Topics include: “National History Day Research”, “Finding Health Information Online”, and “Making a Difference: African American Women of the Civil Rights Movement.”

With a collection of nearly 1 million items, including many rare and historic items specifically relevant to Maryland, SLRC is able to provide access to materials across the state that no other library can afford to purchase and maintain.

In addition to service to the public, SLRC provides hundreds of professional trainings for library workers each year. These trainings are vital for library professionals to meet their certification requirements.

With costs for these services continuing to rise, it is vital that SLRC has the resources to continue their mission of serving all Maryland residents, students, and library professionals. On behalf of the Charles County Public Library I ask that you favorably recommend SB 434 for passage.

KennethWayne Thompson, Executive Director
Charles County Public Library

SB434.pdf

Uploaded by: Mary Baykan

Position: FAV

Written Testimony in Favor of
SB 434 Education –State Library Resource Center – Funding which would
Alter the calculation of certain funding for the State Library Resource
Center for fiscal years 2025 through 2031.

Mr. Chairman and Honored Members of the Committee,

Citizens for Maryland Libraries (CML), wish to voice its strong support for this bill. CML is a non-profit association that works to build greater public awareness of the need for the services that Maryland libraries across the state provide its citizens. Recognizing the importance of our public libraries to the over three million card carrying library users, CML is a strong statewide network of individuals and organizations who value and advocate for Maryland libraries.

Maryland is often called “Library Heaven” because of our State Library Resource Center’s (SLRC) ability to provide an equity of service to Maryland’s public and school libraries across the state. Because of SLRC, even our poorer more rural counties have access to the same online educational databases and electronic resources as our more urban and wealthier counties and at no cost to them. Educational databases that are used in public K-12 schools and public libraries, genealogy databases, language databases, vocational training databases all available because of SLRC. SLRC provides the Internet backbone for all our public libraries in Maryland as well as many of our municipalities and government agencies. Every year, millions of books and library materials travel from one library system to another in answer to the reading needs of our citizens thanks to the delivery system SLRC provides throughout the state.

It has been years, since SLRC has received a funding formula increase while costs have continued to rise that threaten its ability to continue the level of service and resources it is able to currently deliver to Maryland’s public schools and libraries. Our public schools, small business owners, children and families all depend on our public libraries, who in turn, greatly depend on our State Library Resource Center and ask you to vote favorable to SB434.

SB 434 State Library Resource Center (2024).pdf

Uploaded by: Megan Sutherland

Position: FAV



Senate Bill 434
Education - State Library Resource Center - Funding
Budget and Taxation Committee
January 31, 2024
SUPPORT

Dear Chairman Guzzone, Vice Chair Rosapepe, and Committee Members,

The Prince George's County Memorial Library System (PGCMLS) strongly supports **SB 434 Education – State Library Resource Center - Funding**, which would ensure modest, periodic increases to the State Library Resource Center (SLRC) per capita funding formula beyond FY 2024.

The Enoch Pratt Free Library's Central Library was designated the State Library Resource Center (SLRC) in 1971 to provide and expand access to specialized library materials and services necessary for coordinated, efficient, and economical library services in Maryland. Unlike most states, Maryland does not have a State Library, making access to State Library Resource Center services critical to Maryland libraries and residents across the state.

Prince George's County Memorial Library System and Prince Georgians benefit immensely from the State Library Resource Center services. Last year, Prince Georgians received over 26,000 items via the statewide interlibrary loan program, Marina, administered by the State Library Resource Center. Our customers, including all Prince George's County Public School students, have access to various educational databases, including Gale, Heritage Quest, and Mango Languages, provided at no cost to PGCMLS. The cost of these databases has risen dramatically. For example, the Gale databases have increased by 43% between FY21 and FY22, and we anticipate similar increases next fiscal year. Libraries, schools, and local governments throughout the state benefit from the high-speed internet connection service provided at no cost to recipients through the State Library Resource Center.

Thank you for your past support of the State Library Resource Center, and we ask that you **favorably recommend SB 434** for passage.

Sincerely,

Mark Winston, Ph. D.
CEO

SMCL Testimony SB434.pdf

Uploaded by: Michael Blackwell

Position: FAV



Budget and Taxation Committee
SB434: Education - State Library Resource Center – Funding
January 30, 2024
Position: Favorable

Dear Chair Guzzone, Vice Chair Rosapepe and members of the Committee,

Please support SB 4348 Education – State Library Resource Center - Funding. This bill provides necessary funding for the State Library Resource Center for FY2024-FY2030.

The State Library Resource Center (SLRC) provides vital services to public and school libraries across the state, including broadband and database access, and thus is of great importance for Maryland residents and students. It gives great return on state and local dollars and enhances county library systems operations.

- Here are some of the important databases provided by SLRC and their use the past year:
- Gale Educational Databases had 144,053 uses in public K-12 schools and 922,456 uses in public libraries. Total: 1,066,509 uses
- Heritage Quest (a genealogy database) had 276,654 downloads
- Mango Languages had 6,853 uses in public K-12 schools and 87,768 uses in public libraries for a total of 94,617 uses.

Unfortunately, these services are going up in cost. SLRC needs more funds to offer them

SLRC provides internet connection service utilizing high speed fiber to all public libraries in Maryland as well as to 25 municipalities and government agencies throughout the state at no cost to the recipients.

SLRC also has a collection of nearly 1 million items. Many of these items are rare, historic, or directly relevant to Maryland. No other library in the state can afford to purchase and maintain such items.

The Maryland Interlibrary Loan (MILO) provides pickup, delivery, and coordination of borrowing throughout the state through SLRC. This system also facilitates national and international borrowing. Library users around the state rely on SLRC to deliver the many books that they cannot find space for on their shelves or afford to purchase. We anticipate that delivery charges will continue to rise along with gas prices and contractual driver wages.

In short, SLRC provides vital services to help Marylanders thrive. Please support this legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Blackwell".

Michael Blackwell, Director, St. Mary's County Library

Administrative Offices
23630 Hayden Farm Lane
Leonardtwn, MD 20650
301-475-2151
FAX: 301-884-4415
info@stmalib.org

Charlotte Hall Library
37600 New Market Road
Charlotte Hall, MD 20622
301-884-2211
FAX: 301-884-2113

Leonardtwn Library
23630 Hayden Farm Lane
Leonardtwn, MD 20650
301-475-2846
FAX: 301-884-4415

Lexington Park Library
21677 FDR Blvd
Lexington Park, MD 20653
301-863-8188
FAX: 301-863-2550

SB434_Education_Libraries_SLRC 1.31.24.pdf

Uploaded by: Morgan Miller

Position: FAV

Budget and Taxation Committee

SB434 Education – State Library Resource Center - Funding

January 31, 2024

Dear Chairman Guzzone, Vice Chair Rosapepe, and Committee Members,

I am writing to ask for your **favorable support of SB434 Education – State Library Resource Center - Funding**. This bill provides necessary funding for the State Library Resource Center for FY2025-FY2031 at the rate of inflation. While this funding measure passed the Senate last year, it did not pass the House, resulting in another year of flat funding and potentially negative affects to services.

The State Library Resource Center (SLRC) provides many important services to public and school libraries across the state, including broadband internet and digital resources. It is a highly collaborative system that maximizes return on state and local dollars and allows county library systems to operate most efficiently.

SLRC is an extremely well utilized, economical and cost-effective way to connect all Marylanders with a multitude of valuable services, including workforce and small business training, historical and special collections that pertain to Maryland, programs, database access and inter-library loan services. Last year, SLRC loaned more than 300,000 items and facilitated 46,000 inter-library loans- an essential service that SLRC coordinates throughout the state to share books and other resources from county to county. With a limited budget for print collections in Cecil County, we rely heavily on SLRC’s inter-library loan service to connect citizens with the resources they need to create individual and community success.

Additionally, SLRC provides database access to all county public library systems throughout the state. Last year, Marylanders performed more than 1 million searches using high quality databases provided by SLRC. For Cecil Countians, this includes access to Peterson’s Test Prep for college, career, and educational attainment, Mango Foreign Languages, and Heritage Quest- our only online resource for genealogical research. Although essential for our citizens, we would never be able to broker these databases as a stand-alone county.

I had the honor of serving on the Strategic Planning Committee for SLRC’s most recent plan and am excited by their ambitious goals that focus their resources on expanding digital equity throughout the state and training library staff to deliver in-demand 21st century library services. Your committee’s support for their current and future funding will ensure they are able to meet these goals and that no citizen, student, or county public library system, is left behind. Thank you for your past support of the State Library Resource Center’s mission and funding and we ask that you favorably recommend SB434 for passage.

Sincerely,

Morgan Miller, Executive Director

Letter of Support SB 434_M Farmer.pdf

Uploaded by: Mychelle Farmer

Position: FAV

January 31, 2024

Senator Guy J. Guzzone, Chairman
Budget & Taxation Committee
3 West, Miller Senate Office Building

SB 434 – State Library Resource Center - Funding - SUPPORT

Dear Senator Guzzone:

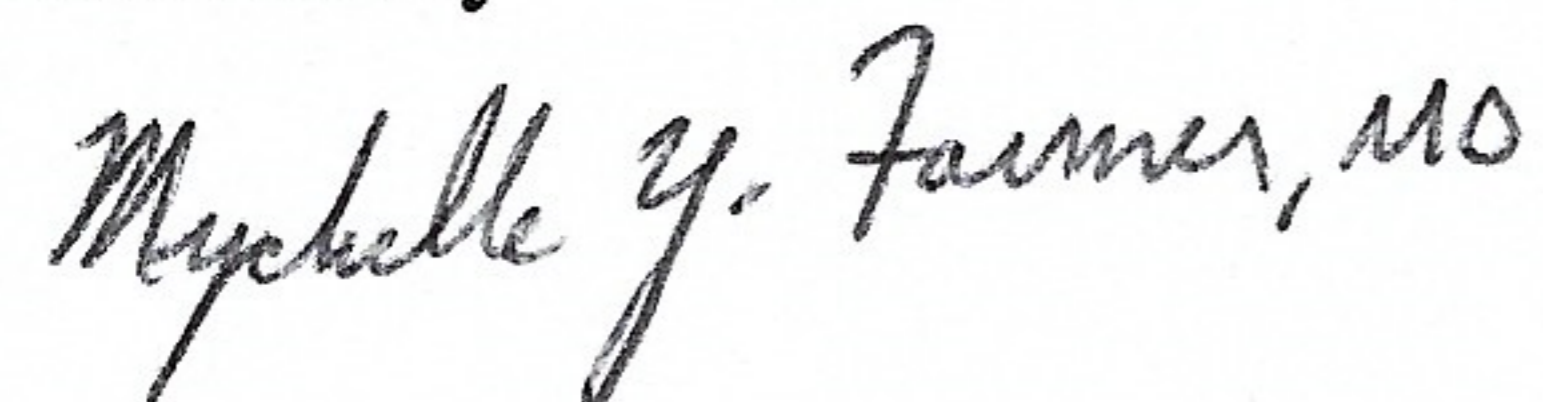
I am a member of the Enoch Pratt Free Library Board of Trustees, and I strongly support **SB 434 Education – State Library Resource Center - Funding** which would continue the periodic increases to the State Library Resource Center (SLRC) per capita funding formula beyond FY 2025.

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. The SLRC services are critical to Maryland libraries and to citizens across the state. The Center includes over four million items in its collection that are available to anyone in the state. In FY 23, SLRC was visited nearly 300,000 times, which represented an 119% increase of SLRC services compared to requests during FY22. The SLRC staff coordinated more than 72,000 interlibrary loans, and provided access to specialized databases that were searched more than 10.6 million times. In addition, SLRC provided 77 training sessions for library workers. Over 50 statewide classes were held and attended by 1689 Marylanders from all areas of the state.

SLRC coordinates library services around the state that are filling a critical demand for services by 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 ensure SLRC's future impact in Maryland.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely



Mychelle Y. Farmer, MD
Member, Board of Trustees, Enoch Pratt Free Library
Immediate Past Chair of the Board of Trustees

cc: Members, Senate Budget & Taxation Committee

Testimony in FAVOR SB 434of.pdf

Uploaded by: Rachel Durso

Position: FAV

Testimony in FAVOR of

SB 434 Public Libraries – State Library Resource Center- Funding

January 30, 2024

Dear Chairman Guzzone and Committee Members,

I am writing in my capacity as a member of the Board of Trustees for the Kent County Public Library to express my strong support for SB 434 Public Libraries – State Library Resource Center – Funding. The State Library Resource Center (SLRC henceforth) provides an invaluable service to our state as well as small, rural counties like the one where I reside.

SLRC provides a myriad of services including free, in-person and virtual trainings to help Maryland Librarians maintain ongoing professional development, the interlibrary loan system, access to educational databases, and programming for the general public. Kent County is one of the smallest counties in the state. We cannot afford many of the resources provided by SLRC on our own. They have provided our librarians with vital training and expanded our citizens’ access to e-books and other digital services. SLRC has also supported the community by providing services for job seekers, safe spaces for after school, and free computer/Internet access. Aside from these services, investment in libraries helps communities in other ways. A forthcoming article from the *American Economic Journal* (Gilpin et al.) finds that increases in capital investments for public libraries increase library visits, children’s attendance at library events, and circulation of children’s books. These increases, in turn, are correlated with improved test scores of students in the surrounding school districts.

Data also demonstrates that there is substantial demand for library services. A new report from the American Library Association show that Millennials and Gen Z are especially likely to use the library’s resources via digital offerings and in-person visits. The data used for the report show 54% of Gen Z and Millennials had visited a physical library in the past 12 months. The survey also polled respondents on whether they considered themselves readers. Of those who identified as “non-readers” more than half had visited their local library in the last year to utilize other services to get help and attend events to “connect and collaborate.” Use of SLRC’s services in FY 2023 are significant. The library was visited nearly 214,000 times, answered more than 286,000 reference questions, facilitated more than 72,000 interlibrary loans, circulated more than 345,000 items, and provided access to specialized databases over 9.3 million times, which represents a 30% increase from the previous year. It is clear that people see the library as an important resource and are utilizing all that it has to offer.

Investment in our libraries is an investment in education, equity, community outreach, child development, and local economies. Such investments also keep our population engaged and thriving. I respectfully ask that you support SB 434.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Rachel M. Durso, PhD
Trustee, Kent County Public Library

SB434 King Sponsor Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Senator Nancy King

Position: FAV

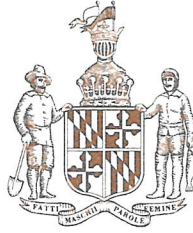
NANCY J. KING
Legislative District 39
Montgomery County

MAJORITY LEADER

Budget and Taxation Committee

Chair

Education, Business and
Administration Subcommittee



James Senate Office Building
11 Bladen Street, Room 120
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
301-858-3686 · 410-841-3686
800-492-7122 Ext. 3686
Fax 301-858-3670 · 410-841-3670
Nancy.King@senate.state.md.us

THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

SPONSOR STATEMENT

Senate Bill 434 – Education – State Library Resource Center - Funding

January 31, 2024

Mister Chairman and Members of the Budget and Taxation Committee:

The State Library Resource Center (SLRC) is the State Library for Maryland and works with libraries across the state, to provide cooperative and cost-effective resources and services for Maryland libraries and their customers.

For fiscal year 2024 the SLRC was funded at a rate of \$1.97 per State Resident.

This legislation with amendments will increase the funding as follows:

FY 2025 - \$2.07 per state resident

FY 2026 - \$2.15 per state resident

FY 2027 - \$2.24 per state resident

FY 2028 - \$2.33 per state resident

FY 2029 - \$2.42 per state resident

FY 2030 and each fiscal year thereafter - \$2.52 per state resident

These increases will ensure that our State Library has the resources necessary to adequately support our libraries and provide the services that our residents need and deserve.

I respectfully request a favorable report on Senate Bill 434 with amendments.

Support for SB434_1.31.24.pdf

Uploaded by: Seth Hershberger

Position: FAV



Subject: **Support for SB 434** - Education – State Library Resource Center – Funding

Dear Chairman Guzzone, Vice Chair Rosapepe, and Committee Members,

I am writing to strongly endorse Senate Bill 434 introduced by Senators King, Augustine, Jackson, Klausmeier, Muse, Rosapepe, and Zucker. I believe this bill is crucial for providing adequate funding for the State Library Resource Center (SLRC) during fiscal years 2024 through 2030.

As the Executive Director of Wicomico Public Library, I emphasize the significant impact SLRC has on our community, particularly in providing professional development training for library staff and facilitating inter-library loan services. SB 434 is vital to ensuring the continuation of these essential services.

SLRC's professional development programs equip library staff with the skills needed to deliver 21st-century services. This training is essential for adapting to evolving community needs and technological advancements, ensuring our libraries remain dynamic and responsive.

Inter-library loan services coordinated by SLRC play a crucial role in connecting citizens with valuable resources. In Wicomico County, where budgets for print collections are limited, SLRC's collaborative efforts facilitate seamless access to a wide range of materials, contributing to individual and community success.

I urge you to support the passage of SB 434, recognizing the pivotal role SLRC plays in strengthening Maryland libraries. Thank you for your commitment to promoting library services and educational resources throughout Maryland.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Seth Hershberger', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Seth Hershberger, Executive Director

SB 434 - SLRC testimony in favor - S. Auld, Anne

Uploaded by: Skip Auld

Position: FAV



**Senate Budget and Taxation Committee
SB 434, State Library Resource Center – Funding
January 30, 2024 -- Support**

Dear Chair Guzzone, Vice Chair Rosapepe and Committee Members,

I am writing in support of SB 434 - State Library Resource – Funding. The bill will minimally increase funding for the State Library Resource Center (SLRC) from FY 2025-2031. These small funding increases will allow SLRC to help libraries across the state build stronger communities.

Maryland is unique in that we don't have a State Library. SLRC serves as the state's library allowing county and regional library systems to leverage their limited resources and act as a multiplier for all we can provide for the residents of our state. It is truly a cost saver and a vital part of providing impactful library service.

SLRC offers high-quality educational databases and research materials that help citizens statewide through their local library systems. The homework help resources provided through SLRC level the playing field for residents who don't have access to private tutors or the ability to travel to get information for assignments. With a library card, and perhaps a library-loaned Chromebook and Wi-Fi hotspot, or Internet access through the Affordable Connectivity Program, they can search high quality databases for information that will be truthful and accurate. Educators also have access to curriculum and other electronic resources through SLRC that can be used in the classroom.

Additionally, SLRC staff conduct key training for library staff including trauma-informed customer service and resiliency. If the pandemic showed us anything, it's that library staff often serve as social workers, teachers, job coaches and detectives connecting people with the resources they so desperately need, whether it's housing, COVID test kits, government benefits or resume help, just to name a few. SLRC helps us help our customers by better understanding their needs and the experiences they bring to every interaction.

SLRC also provides valuable programs on genealogy and Maryland history for library staff and the public. They offer access to genealogy databases available to anyone with a library card, free of charge. We respectfully ask for your support of SB 434. In supporting SLRC, you support your local library and your constituents. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Skip Auld, AACPL Chief Executive Officer

Anne Arundel County
Public Library
5 Harry S. Truman Parkway
Annapolis MD 21401
410-222-7371
aacpl.net

SB 434 Testimony - Support.pdf

Uploaded by: Thomas Vose

Position: FAV



Senator Guy Guzzone, Chair
Senator Jim Rosapepe, Vice-Chair
Budget and Taxation Committee
3 West
Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

January 30, 2024

Dear Senator Guzzone, Senator Rosapepe, and members of the Committee:

I would like to express my support for **SB 434: Education - State Library Resource Center - Funding**, which will provide critical funding to an essential facility for libraries statewide.

With the Enoch Pratt Free Library (the host organization of the State Library Resource Center (SLRC)) facing an imminent cut to funding this year it is all the more vital that the Center continue to deliver the services that public libraries such as Garrett County's rely upon for their patrons. It is because of SLRC that the Ruth Enlow Library obtains Internet connectivity and provides educational databases that would be otherwise unaffordable. Furthermore, SLRC enables access to the State's interlibrary loan network - an essential service for smaller library systems that enables us to provide far more resources to our patrons than we would ever be able to provide alone. Their programs for the public and staff training are invaluable to our system as well, particularly since the latter is required for professional certification in Maryland.

SLRC makes Maryland libraries strong - please help keep it strong as well.

Thank you once again for your ongoing support of Maryland's libraries.

Sincerely,

Thomas Vose
Director, Ruth Enlow Library of Garrett County

SB 434_MLA_1302024.pdf

Uploaded by: Tiffany Sutherland

Position: FAV



Chairman Guzzone, Vice Chair Rosapepe, and Committee Members,

The Maryland Library Association requests your **favorable support** of SB 434 - Education - State Library Resource Center - Funding.

The Maryland State Library Resource Center provides access to educational and informational resources for Maryland library users in all public and school libraries throughout the state for no cost. In 2023, the State Library Resource Center circulated 300,000 items, facilitated an additional 46,000 items circulated via the interlibrary loan system, and allowed Maryland library users 10.6 million searches using high-quality databases. In addition, the Maryland State Library Resource Center provides high-speed fiber internet to all public libraries in Maryland and 25 municipalities and government agencies throughout the state at no cost to those organizations. The cost of these services increased by 43% in fiscal years 21 and 22. The Maryland State Library Resource Center will renegotiate some of these resource access contracts in fiscal year 25 and expects similar price increases.

The Maryland State Library resource center provides access to electronic and physical resources that enhance public education. They also provide workforce and small business development resources, language-learning programs, and rare local historical archives. No individual library could provide all of these resources on their own. These assets are an incredible investment of state and local dollars.

Additionally, the Maryland State Library Resource Center manages the state's interlibrary loan system, which provides pickup, delivery, and coordination of borrowing library materials throughout the state to library users with a Maryland library card to increase access to valuable library resources. This system employs a family-owned and operated courier service based in Washington County, Maryland. As a result of this partnership, the local courier business has expanded and created new jobs.

The Maryland State Library Resource Center's most recent strategic plan is ambitious and forward-thinking. It focuses on expanding digital equity throughout the state and training all Maryland library workers to deliver in-demand 21st-century library services that will enhance lives. This committee's support for funding for the Maryland State Library Resource Center will ensure its ability to meet these goals and that no citizen or public library system is left behind.

Thank you for your past support of the Maryland State Library Resource Center's mission and funding. The Maryland Library Association asks that you favorably recommend SB348 for passage.

Sincerely,

Tiffany Sutherland
President



Written Testimony Favorable SB434_HCLS.pdf

Uploaded by: Tonya Aikens

Position: FAV



**SB 434 Education –State Library Resource Center – Funding which would
Alter the calculation of certain funding for the State Library Resource
Center for fiscal years 2025 through 2031
January 30, 2024
Favorable**

Dear Chair Guzzone, Vice Chair Rosapepe and members of the Committee,

I wish to voice my strong support for this bill. Howard County Library System (HCLS) is ranked among the nation's top library systems for its innovative staff and award-winning curriculum, both of which are aided by resources and services provided by the State Library Resource Center (SLRC).

Maryland is often called “Library Heaven” because of our State Library Resource Center’s (SLRC) ability to provide an equity of service to Maryland’s public and school libraries across the state. Because of SLRC, even our poorer more rural counties have access to the same online educational databases and electronic resources as our more urban and wealthier counties and at no cost to them. Educational databases that are used in public K-12 schools and public libraries, genealogy databases, language databases, vocational training databases are all available because of SLRC. SLRC provides the Internet backbone for all our public libraries in Maryland as well as many of our municipalities and government agencies. Every year, millions of books and library materials travel from one library system to another in answer to the reading needs of our citizens thanks to the delivery system SLRC provides throughout the state.

It has been years since SLRC received a funding formula increase while costs continue to rise and threaten its ability to continue the level of service and resources it is able to currently deliver to Maryland’s public schools and libraries. Our public schools, small business owners, children and families all depend on our public libraries, who in turn, greatly depend on our State Library Resource Center and ask you to vote favorable to SB434.

Sincerely,

Tonya Aikens,
President & CEO
Howard County Library System

SB 434 - Education - State Library Resource Center

Uploaded by: Irene Padilla

Position: INFO



BILL: Senate Bill 434 **DATE:** January 31, 2024
SUBJECT: Education – State Library **COMMITTEE:** Senate Budget & Taxation Committee
 Resource Center – Funding
SPEAKER: Irene Padilla, State Librarian **POSITION:** Neutral

EXPLANATION

On behalf of the Maryland State Library Agency (MSLA), thank you for the opportunity to submit this letter of information regarding Senate Bill 434 - Education - State Library Resource Center - Funding.

This bill proposes increased funding for the State Library Resource Center (SLRC), the Central Library of the Enoch Pratt Free Library system, created in 1971 under State law 23-201. SLRC provides and expands access to specialized library materials and services that are necessary for coordinated, efficient, and economical library services in the State. This funding will allow current services to be maintained and improved. This increase in funding will allow the SLRC to keep up with increases in ongoing costs and continue to develop many innovative and heavily used statewide programs.

The State funding for SLRC and other parts of the State Library Network is provided by the Maryland State Library Agency (MSLA). MSLA contracts with the Enoch Pratt Free Library (EPFL) to operate the SLRC.

SLRC per capita funding is a critical resource for Maryland citizens and libraries across the state. It ensures Maryland residents have equitable access to information. Additionally, SLRC per capita funding encourages statewide cooperation and sharing of resources among public, academic and K - 12 libraries, and provides broadband Internet access for public libraries, schools, and local governments.

Current SLRC per capita funding is scheduled to be \$1.97 per capita under current law. It would remain flat funded thereafter unless this bill is approved by the legislature and the Governor.

Per
(23-206(d) the current funding for the State Library Resource Center is:

- (vi) For fiscal year 2021 \$1.85 per State resident;
- (vii) For fiscal year 2022 \$1.89 per State resident;
- (viii) For fiscal year 2023 \$1.93 per State resident; and
- (ix) For fiscal year 2024 and 2025 and each fiscal year thereafter \$1.97 per State resident.

The bill requests a ten cent increase in FY 2026, an eight cent increase in FY 2027, and a nine

cents per year thereafter through FY 2030. EPFL now has a union and costs are expected to rise. Costs for contracted services and equipment are also anticipated to increase. The bill will provide for annual inflationary increases in the rate between FY 2026 and FY 2030.

- (x) for fiscal year 2026.....\$2.07 per state resident;
- (xi) for fiscal year 2027.....\$2.15 per state resident;
- (xii) for fiscal year 2028.....\$2.24 per state resident;
- (xiii) for fiscal year 2029.....\$2.33 per state resident;
- (xiv) for fiscal year 2030.....\$2.42 per state resident;
- (xv) for fiscal year 2031 and each fiscal year thereafter.....\$2.52 per state resident.

This bill will also alter the mandated amount for the Maryland Library for the Blind and Print Disabled (LBPD) for fiscal years 2026 through FY 2030 (23-205(e)).

This funding for the SLRC and LBPD will allow current services to be maintained and improved. This increase in funding will allow the SLRC to keep up with increases in ongoing costs and continue to develop many innovative and heavily used statewide programs.

Resources, services and programs currently supported by SLRC Per Capita funding include:

- Sailor Network & Resources (21 Maryland Public Library Systems depend on this resource for access to the Internet for their staff and customers)
- Interlibrary loan of needed materials not owned by local library systems.
- Staff Development and Learning Opportunities for Maryland librarians, including workshops needed for state of Maryland Public Librarian certification.
- Online resource database subscriptions needed by Marylanders, especially students K-12, to support homework, research and a variety of information needs.

The Maryland State Library Agency respectfully asks that you consider this information as you deliberate SB 434.

SB434-BT-SUPP.pdf

Uploaded by: Nina Themelis

Position: INFO



BRANDON M. SCOTT
MAYOR

*Office of Government Relations
88 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401*

SB0434

January 31, 2024

TO: Members of the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee
FROM: Nina Themelis, Director of Mayor's Office of Government Relations
RE: SB 434 Public Libraries - State Library Resource Center - Funding
POSITION: Letter of Information

Chair Guzzone, Vice Chair Rosapepe and Members of the Committee, please be advised that the Baltimore City Administration (BCA) **supports** Senate Bill (SB) 434.

SB 434 would extend the periodic increases to the State Library Resource Center (SLRC) per capita funding formula beyond fiscal year 2025. Under existing law, SLRC began receiving annual increases per State resident beginning in fiscal year 2017. Those increases continue through the current fiscal year and then remain at the fiscal 2024 level in perpetuity. SB434 will provide additional increases to take place in each fiscal year through fiscal year 2031. These increases are necessary in order to allow SLRC to continue to operate at its current level of service.

The Enoch Pratt Free Library's Central Library was designated to be the State Library Resource Center in 1971 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. The services provided by SLRC benefits our most vulnerable residents most and helps them to access these critical

For the above reasons, the BCA respectfully requests a favorable report on SB146.