



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

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