

**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