



**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