



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