



**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

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