

*Danielle Hornberger*  
County Executive

Steven Overbay  
Director of Administration

Office: 410.996.5202  
Email: [dhornberger@ccgov.org](mailto:dhornberger@ccgov.org)



Jackie Gregory  
Council President

Robert Meffley  
Vice President

Office: 410.996.5201  
Email: [council@ccgov.org](mailto:council@ccgov.org)

**CECIL COUNTY GOVERNMENT**  
Cecil County Administration Building  
200 Chesapeake Boulevard, Elkton, MD 21921

February 14, 2024

The Honorable Vanessa E. Atterbeary  
House Ways and Means Committee  
Room 131  
House Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: HB 0785 - Freedom to Read Act  
Letter of Opposition

Dear Chairwoman Atterbeary and Members of the House Ways and Means Committee:

The County Council and the County Executive of Cecil County unanimously oppose HB 0785 - Freedom to Read Act. The hearing on this legislation is scheduled on February 21, 2024.

It is our understanding that this legislation is establishing the State standards for libraries for the operation of each library that receives funding from the State; altering the duties of the State Library Board, the State Library Agency, and regional resource centers to incorporate the State standards for libraries; making funding for certain libraries contingent on adoption of a written policy consistent with the State standards for libraries; authorizing the State Comptroller to withhold funding from libraries under certain circumstances; etc.

We strongly believe that the decision on what is provided for our libraries and schools is best left to our families and our local community to decide. Cecil County strongly opposes this legislation.

The County Executive and County Council of Cecil County respectfully requests that the Ways and Means Committee send an unfavorable report on HB 0785.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Hornberger".

Danielle Hornberger  
County Executive

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jackie Gregory".

Jackie Gregory  
President of County Council