



FREDERICK  
COUNTY  
**PUBLIC  
LIBRARIES**

**Ways and Means Committee  
HB 785 Freedom to Read Act  
February 19, 2024**

Dear Chair Atterbeary, Vice Chair Wilkins, and Committee Members,

I am writing to ask for your favorable support of **HB 785 - Freedom To Read Act**.

This important bill would do several important things.

It establishes State standards for libraries. It mandates that all libraries craft comprehensive policies covering collection development in compliance with established standards as a condition of State funding support. It protects library workers who are acting in a manner consistent with State standards from retaliation by Boards of Education or governing bodies of libraries.

Finally, this bill enshrines Maryland's unwavering commitment to provide open access to inclusive library collections that represent the diversity of the communities that we serve.

Your committee's support of HB785 will protect every Marylander's Freedom to Read. We ask that you favorably recommend HB785 for passage. Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,  
James Kelly, Director, Frederick County Public Libraries

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