



**Ways and Means Committee
House Bill 489
Education - State Library Resource Center - Funding
February 7, 2024
Favorable**

Dear Chairperson Jones and Distinguished Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Allegany County Library System and the citizens we serve, I am writing in favor of the annual increases called for in **HB 489, Education - State Library Resource Center - Funding**. This bill provides necessary funding for the State Library Resource Center for fiscal years 2025 through 2031.

The State Library Resource Center (SLRC) provides many important services to public and school libraries across the state. SLRC is used by all Marylanders offering many valuable services, including workforce and small business training, historical and special collections that pertain to Maryland, programs, database access and inter-library loan services. With a limited budget for print collections and databases in Allegany County, we rely heavily on SLRC's inter-library loan service to connect citizens with the resources they need to create individual and community success.

In Western Maryland, SLRC has recently expanded its services to provide Interlibrary Loan Delivery directly to our region of the state. This allows Allegany County customers to quickly receive books from around the state with no additional cost to them or the library system. The many services and databases that SLRC makes available to schools and libraries around the state are offered at no cost to the schools or libraries. The ever increasing cost to provide these services makes passing HB 489 imperative to the continued success of SLRC and its ability to serve the state.

Thank you for your past support of the State Library Resource Center's mission and funding and we ask that you favorably recommend HB 489 for passage.

Sincerely,

John E. Taube,
Executive Director