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Appropriations Committee

*Subcommittees*

Vice Chair, Health and Social Services

Oversight Committee on Pensions

Joint Committee on Administrative,  
Executive, and Legislative Review

Vice Chair, Anne Arundel  
County Delegation

THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

**Testimony of Delegate Dana Jones  
Before the Ways and Means Committee**

**In Support of HB 489  
Education – State Library Resource Center – Funding  
February 7th 2024 1 PM**

Chair Atterbary, Vice-Chair Wilkins, and members of the Ways and Means Committee,

For the record - I am Delegate Dana Jones.

I come before you today to re-introduce House Bill 489, a bill that seeks to minimally increase funding for the State Library Resource Center (SLRC) over a 7 year period at the rate of inflation. SLRC is the State Library for Maryland. Working with libraries across the state, SLRC provides cooperative, cost effective, resources and services for Maryland libraries and our constituents.

Maryland's local library systems serve a critical role in our communities. They provide a wide range of services to our constituents outside of being a place to read, learn, and congregate. SLRC supports our local libraries and bolsters the services that can be offered. The State Library Resource Center provides statewide services, including broadband internet and digital resources, as well as access to millions of items that can be easily obtained by citizens in their home counties. The SLRC conducts training for local library staff and organizes programming for the public such as homework help and language learning services. It is a highly collaborative system that maximizes return on state and local dollars and allows county library systems to operate most efficiently. SLRC serves Maryland's public, academic, school, and special libraries.

Like everyone, the SLRC has also been hit by the impacts of inflation during recent years. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the "All Items Consumer Price Index" has increased nearly 19% from January 2020 to December 2023. My panel can describe in further detail the effects this has had on the SLRC's ability to provide their resources.

The SLRC is an extremely well utilized, economical and cost-effective way to connect all Marylanders with a multitude of valuable services, including workforce and small business training, database access and inter-library loan services. Our library system is more important today than it ever has been, and the SLRC is integral to our local libraries operation.

I respectfully request a favorable report on House Bill 489.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dana Jones" with a horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Delegate Dana Jones