



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

Chair Atterbeary, Vice Chair Wilkins, and members of the Committee,

I write in strong support for this bill. As the director of the Worcester County Library, I can attest to the State Library Resource Center's (SLRC) ability to provide high-quality library service to every corner of our state. SLRC expands access to specialized library materials and services that are necessary for coordinated, efficient, and economical library services in Maryland.

SLRC provides Marylanders of all ages access to educational databases, genealogy databases, language learning databases, and vocational databases through their local libraries and K-12 schools. Millions of books and library materials are shared across the state because of the delivery system SLRC provides. They supply the internet backbone for all public libraries as well as many other municipalities and government agencies. Increased costs put these services at risk.

SLRC has not received a funding formula increase in years. This legislation provides continued investment in SLRC which is, in turn, an investment in libraries, public school students, and library users around the state.

Thank you for your continued support of Maryland libraries and for your favorable consideration of HB 489.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jennifer Ranck".

Jennifer Ranck
Director