



Delegate Vanessa E. Atterbeary, Chair
Delegate Jheanelle K. Wilkins, Vice-Chair
Ways and Means Committee
Room 131, House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

February 5, 2024

Dear Delegate Atterbeary, Delegate Wilkins, and members of the Committee:

I would like to express my support for **HB 489: Education - State Library Resource Center - Funding**, which will provide critical funding to an essential facility for libraries statewide.

With the Enoch Pratt Free Library (the host organization of the State Library Resource Center (SLRC)) facing an imminent cut to funding this year it is all the more vital that the Center continue to deliver the services that public libraries such as Garrett County's rely upon for their patrons. It is because of SLRC that the Ruth Enlow Library obtains Internet connectivity and provides educational databases that would be otherwise unaffordable. Furthermore, SLRC enables access to the State's interlibrary loan network - an essential service for smaller library systems that enables us to provide far more resources to our patrons than we would ever be able to provide alone. Their programs for the public and staff training are invaluable to our system as well, particularly since the latter is required for professional certification in Maryland.

SLRC makes Maryland libraries strong - please help keep it strong as well.

Thank you once again for your ongoing support of Maryland's libraries.

Sincerely,

Thomas Vose
Director, Ruth Enlow Library of Garrett County