



**House Ways & Means Committee
HB785 – Freedom to Read Act
February 19, 2024
Support**

Dear Chair Atterbeary, Vice Chair Wilkins, and Distinguished Members of the Committee:

This letter is in support of HB785 Freedom to Read Act

I respectfully ask for your support of HB785 to establish principals for curating a responsible library collection, protect community collections from deliberate theft, protect libraries and library staff from being penalized for doing their work within the policies and procedures outlined by their organization, affirm constitutional librarianship, protect libraries as they continue to defend against unconstitutional censorship, and codify Maryland's values of access for all people.

Furthermore it sets a State standard for libraries that receive funding from the State and prohibits county boards of education and the governing bodies of libraries from retaliating against employees for acting in a manner consistent with the State standards for libraries.

Sincerely,

Debby Bennett
Executive Director

info@carolib.org • www.carolib.org

Central Library
100 Market Street
Denton, Maryland 21629
p 410.479.1343 f 410.479.1443

Federalsburg Branch
123 Morris Avenue
Federalsburg, Maryland 21632
p 410.754.8397 f 410.754.3058

North County Branch
101 Cedar Lane • P.O. Box 336
Greensboro, Maryland 21639
p 410.482.2173 f 410.482.2634