



Delegate Ben Barnes, Chair
Delegate Mark S. Chang, Vice-Chair
Appropriations Committee
121 Taylor House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

January 31, 2025

Dear Delegate Barnes, Delegate Chang, and members of the Committee:

I would like to express my support for **HB 597: Public Libraries - State Library Resource Center - Funding**, which will provide critical funding to an essential facility for libraries statewide.

The State Library Resource Center (SLRC) is an invaluable resource to smaller and rural public libraries like those in Garrett County. It is thanks to them that we are able to provide students with access to peer-reviewed journals as well as other prohibitively expensive online resources. SLRC is also the Internet provider for this Library, and the hub for our interlibrary loan services through Marina - it is only thanks to their support that we are able to access those materials that exist outside of our system, which our patrons use constantly. SLRC also archives the materials that make up the history of Maryland, both digital and physical, in an archive that is irreplaceable.

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