



2/3/2025

Bill: SB 515

Subject: [SB515 Public Libraries - State Library Resource Center - Funding](#)

Committee: Senate Budget and Taxation Committee

Testimony From: Michael Blackwell, Director, St. Mary's County Library

Position: Support

Dear Chair Senator Guzzone, Vice Chair Rosapepe, and Member of the Committee,

On behalf of the Trustees, 74 employees, and 56,000+ card holders (including school student cards) of St. Mary's County Library, I urge you to support funding for State Library Resource Center (SLRC).

SB 515 calls for flat-funding for FY26 and only modest increase in subsequent years, so the additional expenditure, even in a tight fiscal time, is extremely modest. And this service provides ever so much to St. Marys and all Marylanders.

SLRC provides state-wide interlibrary loan, ensuring that Marylanders have access to research and leisure reading titles that most local libraries cannot provide. Over 324,000 items circulated last year.

St. Mary's library and public schools get access to dozens of quality databases, providing factual information in a time when the much of the Internet is rife with misinformation. If we had to provided these resources in our county, we simply could not afford them. SLRC provides access to the whole state for \$614,000 through consortial buying, far less than the \$4.6 million it would cost us to buy individually.

SLRC has files for every Maryland newspaper from tehri inception till their latest issue, extensive genealogical resources, historical documents, and materials from historical societies, schools, museums, and more

In short, with SLRTC, Marylanders gain cultural wealth, reliable current information, and the preservation of Maryland history in ways in ways would otherwise note exist. By pooling community resources, libraries leverage funding for the benefit of all, helping Marylanders be informed and prosper. I strongly urge support for modest funding increases starting in FY27.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Blackwell", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Michael, Director, St. Mary's County Library
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