

BILL:	SB 515	DATE:	February 3, 2025
SUBJECT:	Public Libraries-State Library Resource Center-Funding	COMMITTEE:	Budget and Taxation
TESTIMONY FROM:	Rachel Wright, Executive Director, Cecil County Public Library	POSITION:	Support

Dear Chair Guzzone, Vice-Chair Rosapepe, and Committee Members:

Cecil County Public Library (CCPL) fully supports **SB 515 Public Libraries-State Library Resource Funding**.

Fully funding the State Library Resource Center (SLRC) is critical to the success of every Marylander who relies on their public, school, and/or academic libraries for access to programs, resources, materials, and information provided by SLRC.

SLRC's coordination of the inter-county materials lending service is especially important for smaller, rural systems who may be limited in the breadth and depth of materials they are able to offer their residents. Additionally, SLRC's statewide SAILOR service directly addresses the digital divide by ensuring all 24 MD municipalities receive access to high-speed broadband Internet.

As community need increases, so to do the costs of providing these essential services. Additional funding is needed; therefore, to ensure SLRC can continue to effectively serve library systems across the state. The current funding level of \$2.07 per state resident will not be sufficient in later years; we respectfully ask that you please support per capita increases as requested for years FY27 – FY31 and beyond.

The impact of SLRC on every library system and resident of the state of MD cannot be overstated. Whether through the 324,000 items borrowed using the Statewide Interlibrary Loan Network, the 8.9 million instances of individuals accessing the Sailor Database Consortium, or the 284,000 in-person visits to SLRC's physical location at the Enoch Pratt Free Library, the success of public, school, and academic libraries are dependent upon the success of SLRC. And, the success of SLRC is dependent upon it being fully funded, as prescribed in SB 515.

Thank you for your ongoing support of Maryland libraries and communities.

Truly,



Rachel Wright
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