

Letterhead Template Blue and Green.docx.pdf

Uploaded by: Barry Glassman

Position: FAV



Harford County
Public Library

1221-A Brass Mill Road • Belcamp, Maryland 21017
410.273.5600 • TTY: 410.838.3371
FAX: 410.273.5606

February 3, 2025

Senate Budget and Taxation Committee

Letter of Support

Senate Bill 515 – Public Libraries – State Library Resource Center - Funding

Honorable Guy Gizonne, Chair and Members of the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee

The State Library Resource Center (SLRC) provides critical training, programs, resources, and the state's inter-county materials lending service to public, school, and academic libraries. It serves 24 municipalities, which receive access to high-speed broadband Internet through SLRC's statewide SAILOR service.

It is essential that we ensure SLRC effectively continues to serve communities through libraries across the state with sufficient funding and HB 597 provides increased funding beginning in FY 2027. Current funding for FY 26 is \$2.07 per state resident and in FY 2027 increases to \$2.15 reaching \$2.52 in FY 31.

Harford County relies on the Sailor broadband internet service for its 12 locations and outreach vehicles. In addition, residents of our county have access to the Sailor Database Consortium collection and these databases were accessed 8.9 million times throughout the state. Maryland is known as library heaven and its cooperative interlibrary loan network provided by SLRC is a testament to the effectiveness and efficiency of SLRC services. The array of databases provided by SLRC throughout the state would cost libraries and schools \$4.6 million if purchased individually and only cost \$618,000 because of SLRC's consortium power.

Harford County Public Library relies on SLRC training and professional development for its staff along with library staff throughout the state. Of special note is that Harford County Public Library is an active participant in the Digital Maryland project through SLRC which preserves collections from statewide historical societies, schools, and libraries. Digital Maryland houses Harford's Living Treasures Oral History collection which enables access to anyone throughout the world, at any time. In FY 24, more than 600,000 people visited the Digital Maryland website.

Thank you for the opportunity to express our support for SB 515 and highlight the value that SLRC provides to Harford as well as to communities throughout Maryland. On behalf of the Harford County Public Library Board of Trustees, Library staff, and our community, please support SB 515. Thank you.

Mary Hastler, CEO
Harford County Public Library

Letter in support of SB515_Carrie_Willson.pdf

Uploaded by: Carrie Willson

Position: FAV



Inspiring possibility ★ calvertlibrary.info

Carrie Willson, Executive Director • carrie.willson@calvertlibrary.info
850 Costley Way • Prince Frederick, MD 20678 • 410-535-0291 • 301-855-1862

BILL: SB 515 – Public Libraries – **DATE:** February 5, 2025
State Library Resource
Center - Funding

SUBJECT: FY27-31 per capita increases **COMMITTEE:** Budget and Taxation

TESTIMONY FROM: Carrie Willson, Executive
Director, Calvert Library **POSITION:** Support

Dear Chair Guzzone, Vice Chair Rosapepe and members of the Committee,

On behalf of the citizens of Calvert County, I respectfully request support of **Senate Bill 515 Education – State Library Resource Center - Funding**. The resources and expertise that all Maryland residents have access to from Enoch Pratt Free Library and the State Library Resource Center (SLRC) are invaluable. The public library and the school system in Calvert, and across the state, rely on SLRC to provide access to educational databases. In FY24, Calvert Library recorded over 81,000 uses of SLRC-provided databases. That figure doesn't include the uses from the public school system whose students can rely on the Gale databases for primary source references. If each library system and school system purchased their own access it would cost \$4.6 million. That same access, purchased collectively by SLRC, costs \$618,000. These resources are relied upon by Maryland residents but funding must be increased to enable this resource sharing to continue.

Databases are only one of the many resources that my library relies on from SLRC. We also use the SLRC internet connection (as does our local government), the physical collection, the expertise of subject-matter expert librarians, Inter-Library Loan and the high-quality training provided by SLRC.

I urge your support for SB515 which will takes into account the challenging FY26 budget outlook but ensures a strong future for SLRC by providing incremental increases for FY27-31. These increases are vital for the State Library Resource Center to sustain its current level of service to public libraries, public schools and local government.

Sincerely,

Carrie Willson
Executive Director, Calvert Library



SB515Support.pdf

Uploaded by: Dana Newman

Position: FAV



Dana Newman
Director

100 West Dover Street
Easton, MD 21601

Telephone
410-822-1626
Fax
410-820-8217

Senate Budget and Taxation Committee
SB515 Public Libraries - State Library Resource Center
February 3, 2025
Support

Dear Chair King and Committee Members,

I am writing in **support of SB515 Public Libraries - State Library Resource Center**. The bill will provide necessary funding for the State Library Resource Center. The State Library Resource Center (SLRC) provides many important services to public and school libraries across the state, including broadband internet and digital resources. It is a highly collaborative system that maximizes return on state and local dollars and allows county library systems to operate more efficiently.

SLRC is an extremely well utilized, economical and cost-effective way to connect all Marylanders with a multitude of valuable services, including workforce and small business training, historical and special collections that pertain to Maryland, programs, database access and inter-library loan services. Last year, SLRC facilitated the interlibrary loan of over 324,000 items to patrons across Maryland - an essential service that SLRC coordinates throughout the state to share books and other resources from county to county. With a limited budget for print collections in Talbot County, we rely heavily on SLRC's inter-library loan service to connect citizens with the resources they need to create individual and community success. Additionally, SLRC provides database access to all county public library systems throughout the state. Last year, Marylanders accessed SLRC databases more than 8.9 million times through public and academic libraries. For Talbot residents, this includes access to Peterson's Test Prep for college, career, and educational attainment, Mango Foreign Languages, and Heritage Quest- an online resource for genealogical research. Although essential for our citizens, we would never be able to broker these databases as a stand-alone county. Their resources expand digital equity throughout the state. They also train library staff to deliver in-demand 21st century library services. Your committee's support for their current and future funding will ensure they are able to meet these goals and that no citizen, student, or county public library system, is left behind.

SLRC also provides vital guidance, development, grant support, and delivery of materials between libraries, that it serves.

SLRC is critical to providing support to the public during times of hardship and is instrumental in helping with economic recovery.

Thank you for your past support of the State Library Resource Center's mission and funding and we ask that you favorably recommend SB515 for passage.

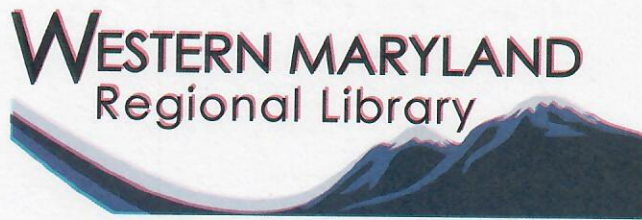
Sincerely,

Dana Newman
Library Director

SB0515_SLRC funding_written testimony_FY26.pdf

Uploaded by: Elizabeth Hulett

Position: FAV



Budget and Taxation Committee
SB0515 – Public Libraries – State Library Resource Center – Funding
February 5, 2025

Dear Chair Guzzone, Vice Chair Rosapepe, and Committee members:

I am writing in **Support of SB0515 Public Libraries – State Library Resource Center – Funding**

The Western Maryland Regional Library (WMRL) strongly supports **SB0515 Public Libraries – State Library Resource Center – Funding** which would alter the calculation of certain funding for the State Library Resource Center. SLRC serves Maryland's public, academic, school, and special libraries. It provides statewide resources and services for Maryland libraries and their customers. In Western Maryland, SLRC plays an essential role in cultivating public libraries and the communities they support. These are just a few of the SLRC services that positively impact our region.

Research databases: SLRC provides a collection of research databases to our three public library systems and to the public school system. All residents have access to a core collection of databases for online language learning, family history research, job and career resources, general research support, test preparation, and more.

Statewide interlibrary loan: The Marina system, run by SLRC, allows Maryland public library cardholders to request materials not owned by their local public library system from another Maryland public library system. This highly popular sharing agreement gives our residents access to materials they would not otherwise be able to borrow. We have seen a steady growth in the use of this service over the past several fiscal years.

Professional Development: SLRC provides a full range of professional development opportunities for Maryland librarians, including online courses, in-person training, and conferences. This training helps librarians navigate issues such as virtual library services, customer service, and collection management.

Delivery of Materials: SLRC bears the full cost of delivering all of WMRL's Interlibrary loan materials around the state. This has a major positive impact on WMRL's budget and the efficiency of the delivery system. As the smallest of the Regional libraries, WMRL relies heavily on the services SLRC provides.

Maryland public libraries are among the strongest, if not the strongest system of public libraries in the nation. This is due in large part to the continued support of the Maryland General Assembly and its support of The State Library Resource Center for which I am very grateful. I respectfully ask for your support of SB0515.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Elizabeth Hulett". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Elizabeth Hulett

Director

Western Maryland Regional Library

SB515 Public Libraries-State Library Resource Cent

Uploaded by: Janet Salazar

Position: FAV

Senate Budget and Taxation
SB515 – Public Libraries – State Library Resource Center - Funding
February 5, 2025
Support/Favorable

Dear Chair Guzzone, Vice Chair Rosapepe, and members of the committee:

I am writing in support of SB515 – Public Libraries – State Library Resources Center – Funding.

The State Library Resource Center (SLRC) provides valuable resources for the residents of Queen Anne's County. The Sailor Database Consortium provides access to educational databases that our library system could not afford if we had to pay for them out of our budget. In FY 24, these databases were accessed 511 times by our library customers. These databases provide a variety of information: genealogical research, learning a new language, full text articles from major academic journals, resources for elementary, middle, and high school research, and access to general interest periodicals and newspapers from the U.S. and around the world. If every library in the state had to purchase these databases individually, it would cost over \$4 million, but because SLRC can purchase them at a consortium rate, the combined total is only \$618,000. That is a significant savings and our library users in Queen Anne's County appreciate having them available.

SLRC runs our statewide interlibrary loan network, Marina. This service is invaluable to the smaller systems in the state, such as ours. Because we have smaller libraries, with less available space for books and other materials, Marina expands our collection by allowing our library users to borrow books from any library in the State of Maryland as well as from outside our state. In FY 24, Queen Anne's County Library users borrowed 3,005 items through the Marina network.

SLRC also provides internet access to our library system. In FY 24, our library internet had 70,000 sessions. Many residents don't have access to or can't afford internet access in their homes. The service provided by SLRC allows our library system to help bridge the digital divide in our county.

Queen Anne's County Library supports the passage of SB515. I respectfully ask for your support of this budget item, which will allow SLRC to continue to support Maryland public libraries and specifically the Queen Anne's County Library and our residents. By providing the proposed funding for SLRC, which is flat funded for FY26 at \$2.07 per state resident and increasing over the next five fiscal years (FY27 - \$2.15, FY28 - \$2.24, FY29 - \$2.33, FY30 - \$2.42, FY31 and beyond - \$2.52) our public libraries will continue to offer access to materials, services, and resources our community needs and wants and to grow our services as our community's needs change.

Thank you for your consideration,

Janet Salazar
Director

SB515_Jan_2025.pdf

Uploaded by: Jennifer Ranck

Position: FAV



BILL: SB 515

DATE: February 3, 2025

**TITLE: Public Libraries - State Library
Resource Center - Funding**

COMMITTEE: Budget and Taxation

**SUBMITTED BY: Jennifer Ranck, Worcester
County Library**

POSITION: Support

Dear Chair Guzzone, Vice Chair Rosapepe and members of the Committee:

I write in strong support of SB 515. As the director of the Worcester County Library, I can attest to the State Library Resource Center's (SLRC) ability to provide high-quality library service to every corner of our state. SLRC expands access to specialized library materials and services that are necessary for coordinated, efficient, and economical library services in Maryland. SLRC provides Marylanders of all ages access to educational databases, genealogy databases, language learning databases, and vocational databases through their local libraries and K-12 schools.

SLRC supplies the internet backbone for all public libraries in Maryland as well as many other municipalities and government agencies, including EMS services. The SAILOR network was operational and functioning 99.91% of the time in FY24. Millions of books and library materials are shared across the state because of the delivery system SLRC provides - increased costs put these services at risk. This legislation provides continued investment in SLRC which is, in turn, an investment in libraries, public school students, and library users around the state.

Libraries are foundational to education, economic opportunity, and lifelong learning. **I respectfully request that you support the passage of this budget item.**

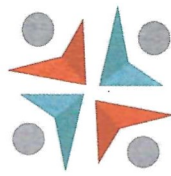
Sincerely,

Jennifer Ranck
Director

WCFL_SB515_Support.pdf

Uploaded by: Jenny Bakos

Position: FAV



WASHINGTON COUNTY
FREE LIBRARY

Where People & Possibilities Meet

February 5, 2025

Senator Guy Guzzone, Chair
Budget and Taxation Committee
3 West Miller Senate Office Building

Dear Chairman Guzzone, Vice Chair Rosapepe, and Committee Members,

The Washington County Free Library strongly supports **SB515 – Public Libraries – State Library Resource Center - Funding** which would continue the periodic increases to the State Library Resource Center (SLRC) per capita funding formula beyond FY 2025 to provide funding into FY31 and beyond.

The Enoch Pratt Free Library's Central Library was designated to be the State Library Resource Center in 1971 in an effort to provide and expand access to specialized library materials and services that are necessary for coordinated, efficient, and economical library services in Maryland. Unlike most states, Maryland does not have a State Library making access to SLRC services critical to Maryland libraries and citizens across the state.

The importance of SLRC cannot be overstated: in FY 2024, SLRC provided access to educational databases to public schools and libraries 8.9 million times; these databases vary in topic, but include genealogy, language learning and legal forms specific to Maryland. In fact, just a portion of these databases would cost libraries in Maryland \$4.6 million if each library purchased them separately. The State Library Resource Center is able to provide them to all citizens of the State for \$618,000.

SLRC also provides many other critical services, including housing the State's "last copy" collection. These materials allow Marylanders access to rare and historic texts relevant to Maryland history. SLRC coordinates library services around the state that are filling a critical demand for services by job seekers, small business owners, early literacy, after-school safe places, and free internet and computer access.

Library services are vital to successful schools, strong communities and adult education and we encourage passage of this important legislation to assure their continuation. Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Jenny L. Bakos
Executive Director
Washington County Free Library

SB 515-Favorable.pdf

Uploaded by: John Taube

Position: FAV



Senate Budget and Taxation Committee
Senate Bill 515
Public Libraries - State Library Resource Center - Funding
February 3, 2025
Favorable

Dear Chair and Distinguished Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Allegany County Library System and the citizens we serve, I am writing in favor of the annual increases called for in **SB 515, Public Libraries - State Library Resource Center - Funding**.

This bill provides necessary funding for the State Library Resource Center for fiscal years 2027 through 2031.

The State Library Resource Center (SLRC) provides many important services to public and school libraries across the state. SLRC is used by all Marylanders offering many valuable services, including workforce and small business training, historical and special collections that pertain to Maryland, programs, database access and inter-library loan services. With a limited budget for print collections and databases in Allegany County, we rely heavily on SLRC's inter-library loan and database services to connect citizens with the resources they need to create individual and community success.

In Western Maryland, SLRC has recently expanded its services to provide Interlibrary Loan Delivery directly to our region of the state. This allows Allegany County customers to quickly receive books from around the state with no additional cost to them or the library system. The many services and databases that SLRC makes available to schools and libraries around the state are offered at no cost to the schools or libraries. The ever increasing cost to provide these services makes passing SB 515 imperative to the continued success of SLRC and its ability to serve the state.

Thank you for your past support of the State Library Resource Center's mission and funding and we ask that you favorably recommend SB 515 for passage.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "John E. Taube".

John E. Taube,
Executive Director

SB515 - SLRC funding_letter of support_CaroCoPubLi

Uploaded by: Jonah Owens

Position: FAV



**Senate Budget and Taxation Committee
SB515 State Library Resource Center Funding
February 3, 2025
Support**

Dear Chairman Guzzone, Vice-Chair Rosapepe and Distinguished Members of the Committee:

This letter is in support of SB515 for altering the calculation of funding for the State Library Resource Center (SLRC) for FY2027 and each year thereafter.

Unlike most states, Maryland does not have a State Library, making access to SLRC services critical to Maryland libraries and citizens across the state. As you know, Caroline County is one of the poorer counties in Maryland. The citizens of Caroline County greatly benefit from the services SLRC provides, including the loan of books and other materials, access to specialized databases and public programs; all beyond what Caroline County Public Library can provide. Caroline County Public Library staff benefit from the professional development training SLRC staff provide. SLRC's SAILOR Internet Network provides broadband internet access to public libraries around the state.

SLRC coordinates equitable library services around the state that are filling a critical demand for services by job seekers, small business owners, early literacy, after-school safe places, and free internet and computer access. Library services are vital to successful schools, strong communities and adult education.

I respectfully ask for your support of SB515 to help SLRC continue its important work throughout the State.

Sincerely,

Jonah Owens
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

SB 515 Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Julie Saxenmeyer

Position: FAV



SB 515
Public Libraries - State Library Resource Center – Funding
Testimony in Support
Senate Budget and Taxation Committee

Dear Chair Guzzone, Vice-Chair Rosapepe and members of the House Budget and Taxation Committee:

As the Chief Executive Officer of Baltimore County Public Library, I write in support of **SB 515**. This bill will adjust the funding calculation for the State Library Resource Center, which provides training, programs, resources, and the state's inter-county materials lending service to public, school, and academic libraries. Baltimore County Public Library and our customers reap the benefits of this cost-effective and collaborative service every day, and an increase in funding is necessary so it can continue in the future, and without interruption.

SLRC offers a variety of important services, including Marina Interlibrary Loan, database access and high-speed broadband internet. Each one allows us to be more efficient in how we distribute our resources.

At Baltimore County Public Library, our collection is among the robust in the state; our 19 branches house more than 1.1 million items. Every collection has its limits, though, and we are happy that SLRC allows our customers to take advantage of the other incredible collections around the state via the Marina interlibrary loan system. We are also proud to assist customers statewide. In FY2024, Baltimore County Public Library circulated 62,595 items through this service, either by loaning materials to customers in other library systems, or by borrowing materials from other systems on behalf of our customers. Additionally, SLRC research databases available to public and school libraries throughout the state both promote equity of access and present a considerable cost savings to libraries. At Baltimore County Public Library, the available SLRC databases extend our database buying power by fifty percent, allowing our procurement professionals the ability to focus our resources on other materials for our collection. Essentially, SLRC helps us extend our collection beyond our doors.

Baltimore County Public Library also benefits from the SAILOR high-speed broadband internet network. We have 320 public computers located throughout our 19 branches; these are hardwired to the SAILOR network. In FY2024, nearly 100,000 customers used the public computers a total of 439,000 times over a period of 282,000 hours. These users include those with no high-speed internet or computer access at home, who may use our computers to do tasks such as job searching or studying for school. This kind of fast, reliable access is a critical service that public library customers have come to rely upon. Our association with SLRC and SAILOR plays an enormous role in our ability to provide this service.

In Maryland, our public libraries are among the best in the nation. The services provided by the State Library Resource Center factor heavily in this status. I strongly support funding SLRC at the necessary levels now and in the future, and I ask the committee to vote yes on this bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Salcantara', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Sonia Alcántara-Antoine
Chief Executive Officer

SB 515 Letter of Support 2_3_25 (SLRC).pdf

Uploaded by: Lloyd Jansen

Position: FAV



Budget and Taxation Committee

SB 515 Public Libraries - State Library Resource Center - Funding

February 3, 2025

Dear Chairman Guzzone, Vice Chair Rosapepe, and Committee Members,

I am writing to ask for your favorable support of **SB 515 Public Libraries - State Library Resource Center - Funding**. This bill provides necessary funding for the State Library Resource Center for FY2026-FY2031.

The State Library Resource Center (SLRC) provides a wealth of invaluable services to schools and public libraries across the state, such as the SAILOR Database Consortium, which provides access to educational databases at no cost to those institutions. These databases include Gale Educational Databases, the Heritage Quest genealogy database, and Mango Languages. These databases were accessed 8.9 million times statewide in FY24. Since SLRC purchases these databases at a consortium rate, the databases that SLRC paid \$618,000 for in FY24 would have cost individual schools and libraries \$4.6M.

Through its SAILOR network, SLRC provides internet connection services utilizing high speed fiber to 24 municipalities throughout the state at no cost to the recipients, including local governments and EMS services.

The Marina Interlibrary Loan Network (MILO), administered by SLRC, provides pickup, delivery, and coordination of borrowing throughout the state. Anyone in the state with a library card to any public library can request books from any other library, including SLRC. In FY24 324,000 items were borrowed through the Marina system, leveling the playing field for all residents to access the collections of libraries across the state.

SLRC staff will travel anywhere in the state to provide a range of dozens of programs for the public from any school or library, and also offers them virtually. Topics include: "National History Day Research", "Finding Health Information Online", and "Making a Difference: African American Women of the Civil Rights Movement." In addition to service to the public, SLRC provides hundreds of professional trainings for library workers each year. These trainings are vital for library professionals to meet their certification requirements. In FY24 SLRC staff provided 154 library trainings and public programs that reached 5,778 participants.

With a collection of nearly 1 million items, including many rare and historic items specifically relevant to Maryland, SLRC is able to provide access to materials across the state that no other library can afford to purchase and maintain. This includes large collections of primary source materials like entire runs of most

Maryland newspapers, government documents and genealogy resources, and a collection related to African-American history, culture and lives.

Costs for these services continue to rise, so it is vital that SLRC has the resources to continue their mission of serving all Maryland residents, students, and library professionals. Current SLRC funding is \$2.75M/year or \$2.07 per state resident. The request has that amount staying the same in FY26 with slight increases each year, topping out at \$2.52 per state resident in FY31. In light of the immense scope and importance of the services provided by SLRC, I'm sure you'll find that this funding gives tremendous "bang for the buck". On behalf of the Charles County Public Library I ask that you favorably recommend SB 515 for passage.

KennethWayne Thompson, Executive Director
Charles County Public Library

SB 515 State Library Resource Center (2025).pdf

Uploaded by: Megan Sutherland

Position: FAV



Public Libraries - State Library Resource Center - Funding

Budget and Taxation Committee

February 5, 2025

SUPPORT

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

The Prince George's County Memorial Library System (PGCMLS) strongly supports **SB 515 Public Libraries – State Library Resource Center - Funding**, which would ensure modest, periodic increases to the State Library Resource Center (SLRC) per capita funding formula starting in fiscal year 2027.

The Enoch Pratt Free Library's Central Library was designated the State Library Resource Center (SLRC) in 1971 to provide and expand access to specialized library materials and services necessary for coordinated, efficient, and economical library services in Maryland. Unlike most states, Maryland does not have a State Library, making access to State Library Resource Center services critical to Maryland libraries and residents across the state.

Prince George's County Memorial Library System and Prince Georgians benefit immensely from the State Library Resource Center services. Last year, Prince Georgians received over 25,000 items via the statewide interlibrary loan program, Marina, administered by SLRC. Our customers, including all Prince George's County Public School students, have access to various educational databases, including Gale, Heritage Quest, and Mango Languages, provided at no cost to PGCMLS. The economic benefits of consortium rate pricing for SLRC databases are substantial. For example, SLRC's Gale Databases would cost a total of \$4.6M for libraries and schools in FY24 if purchased individually. Because SLRC buys them at a consortium rate, the same number of people get access for only \$618,000, saving Maryland taxpayers over \$4 million annually. Libraries, schools, local governments, and EMS throughout the state benefit from the high-speed internet connection service provided at no cost to recipients through the State Library Resource Center. The SAILOR network was operational and functioning 99.91% of the time in FY24.

Thank you for your past support of the State Library Resource Center, and we ask that you **favorably recommend SB 515** for passage.

Sincerely,

Mark Winston, Ph. D.
CEO

SB 515 SMCL.pdf

Uploaded by: Michael Blackwell

Position: FAV



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
23630 Hayden Farm Lane, Leonardtown MD 20650

Administrative Offices
23630 Hayden Farm Lane
Leonardtown, MD 20650
301-475-2151
FAX: 301-884-4415
info@stmalib.org

Charlotte Hall Library
37600 New Market Road
Charlotte Hall, MD 20622
301-884-2211
FAX: 301-884-2113

Leonardtown Library
23630 Hayden Farm Lane
Leonardtown, MD 20650
301-475-2846
FAX: 301-884-4415

Lexington Park Library
21677 FDR Blvd
Lexington Park, MD 20653
301-863-8188
FAX: 301-863-2550

Support for SB515-SLRC M Farmer.pdf

Uploaded by: Mychelle Farmer

Position: FAV

January 29, 2025

The Honorable Senator Guy Guzzone

Chair, Senate Budget and Taxation Committee

3 West Miller Senate Office Building

11 Bladen Street

Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: Support for SB515- Public Libraries - State Library Resource Center – Funding

Dear Chairman Guzzone:

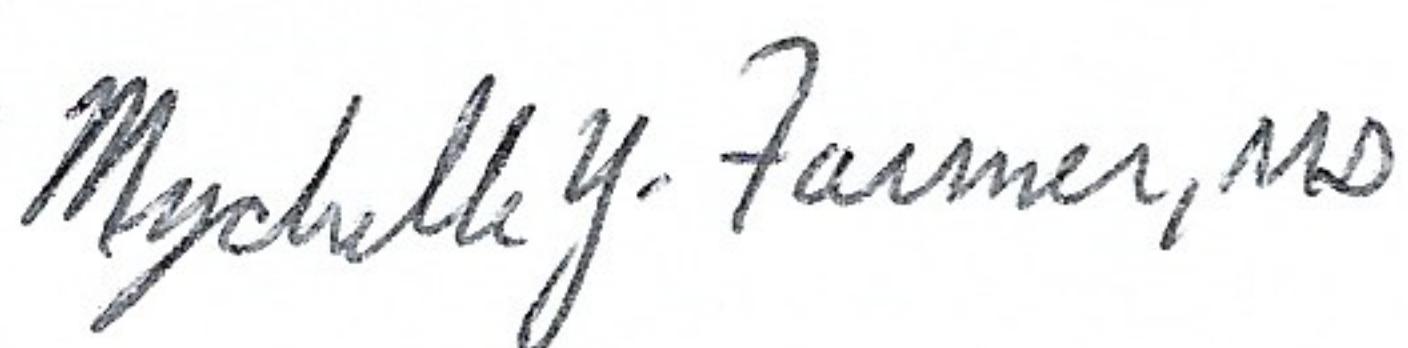
I am writing this letter to support funding for SB515, State Library Resource Center Bill. This bill is structured to provide needed funding for the State Library Resource Center (SLRC) for FY26-FY31. Multi-year funding is critical for SLRC, as it seeks to achieve long-term goals and priorities for Maryland's libraries. Over 280,000 people visited SLRC's physical location, and over 355,000 items were borrowed in FY24. SLRC also maintains the Sailor Database Consortium, which is available to all public libraries and public schools. This database was accessed 8.9 million times statewide in FY24. Clearly, SLRC's services are well utilized and highly valued by Maryland's residents.

In addition to providing resources to individuals, this Center also provided over 150 trainings and public programs statewide, which were attended by 5,778 participants. I have attended the training previously, and as a result, I gained deeper knowledge about SLRC's resources. The training enhanced my capacity as a Chair of the Pratt Library. They also expanded my contributions to my community, such that I now encourage my neighbors and colleagues to take advantage of SLRC.

The Pratt Library has been an asset for statewide coordination of SLRC, as it serves as a vital hub for historical and cultural information through the Digital Maryland program. The accessibility of this program allows thousands to use it. Since these services are provided by existing staff, SLRC remains a cost-effective, and widely used Center.

I strongly support SLRC funding through SB515, to ensure future quality state library services.

Sincerely,



Mychelle Y. Farmer, MD

Past Chair, Enoch Pratt Free Library

Vice Chair, Maryland State Library Board

cc: Senator Nancy King

CCPL_Testimony_SLRC Funding_SB 515_2.3.25.pdf

Uploaded by: Rachel Wright

Position: FAV

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
Executive Director, Cecil County Public Library
485 Mauldin Avenue
North East, MD 21901

SB515-King-Sponsor Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Senator Nancy King

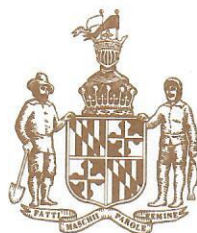
Position: FAV

NANCY J. KING
Legislative District 39
Montgomery County

Majority Leader

Budget and Taxation Committee

Chair
Education, Business and
Administration Subcommittee



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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

SPONSOR STATEMENT

Senate Bill 515 – Public Libraries – State Library Resource Center - Funding

February 5, 2025

Mister Chairman and Members of the Budget and Taxation Committee:

The State Library Resource Center (SLRC) is the State Library for Maryland and works with libraries across the state, to provide cooperative and cost-effective resources and services for Maryland libraries and their customers.

For fiscal years 2025 and 2026 the SLRC is funded at a rate of \$2.07 per state resident.

This legislation with will increase the funding as follows:

FY 2027 - \$2.15 per state resident

FY 2028 - \$2.24 per state resident

FY 2029 - \$2.33 per state resident

FY 2030 - \$2.42 per state resident

FY2031 - and each fiscal year thereafter - \$2.52 per state resident

These increases will ensure that our State Library has the resources necessary to adequately support our libraries and provide the services that our residents need and deserve.

I respectfully request a favorable report on Senate Bill 515.

SB515 (FAV) Written testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Seth Hershberger

Position: FAV



February 3, 2025

SB515 (FAV)

Dear Chair Guzzone, Vice Chair Rosapepe, and Members of the Budget & Taxation Committee,

Let's be blunt: libraries are under siege. Not in the dramatic, culture-war sense that dominates our political discourse, but in the slow erosion of resources, in the quiet tightening of budgets that forces these institutions—these cornerstones of a literate and democratic society—to do more with less.

SB515 is not about luxury. It's not even about expansion. It is about survival. The Maryland State Library Resource Center (SLRC) is the backbone of library services across the state, providing not just books, but training, high-speed broadband, interlibrary loans, and databases that serve the entire ecosystem of public, academic, and school libraries. This is infrastructure, as vital to intellectual life as roads are to commerce.

Let's talk numbers. Right now, Maryland invests a mere \$2.07 per resident in SLRC. That's what we spend annually to ensure equitable access to research materials, archival records, and digital resources for everyone—from schoolchildren to first responders using SLRC's SAILOR network. In FY24 alone, SLRC facilitated 355,120 material circulations, powered nearly 9 million database searches, and welcomed 284,000 visitors to its central location. This is a powerhouse of a public service.

Consider this: without SLRC's centralized purchasing power, Maryland's libraries and schools would have had to pay \$4.6 million for digital resources last year. Instead, SLRC secured them for just \$618,000. That is efficiency. That is smart governance. That is what we jeopardize if we fail to fund SB515.

The numbers alone should be enough. But if they aren't, consider the principle. Libraries are a bulwark against inequality, a rare place where access is not determined by wealth or privilege. They preserve history, they disseminate knowledge, they anchor communities. To allow them to wither—to reduce their funding in real dollars while inflation eats away at their capacity—is not just short-sighted. It is, in the end, a quiet betrayal of everything a functioning democracy requires.

Pass SB515. Fund SLRC. It is, quite simply, the least we can do.

Sincerely,

Seth Hershberger, Library Director

SB515_SLRC Howard.pdf

Uploaded by: Stephanie Shane

Position: FAV



HOWARD COUNTY
LIBRARY SYSTEM

Learn. Grow. Connect.

Testimony in support of SB 515: Public Libraries - State Library Resource Center - Funding
Hearing before the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee
February 3, 2025
Submitted by Tonya Aikens, Howard County Library System President & CEO

Dear Chair Guzzone, Vice Chair Rosapepe, and Distinguished Members of the Committee:

I am writing to express support for **SB 515: Public Libraries - State Library Resource Center - Funding**, which would ensure modest, periodic increases to the State Library Resource Center (SLRC) per capita funding formula beyond FY 2025.

The Enoch Pratt Free Library's Central Library was designated the State Library Resource Center (SLRC) in 1971 to provide and expand access to specialized library materials and services necessary for coordinated, efficient, and economical library services in Maryland. Unlike most states, Maryland does not have a State Library, making access to State Library Resource Center services critical to Maryland libraries and residents across the state.

Howard County residents benefit immensely from the State Library Resource Center services.

- Our customers, including all Howard County Public School System students, have access to various educational databases, including Gale, Heritage Quest, and Mango Languages, provided at no cost to HCLS. SLRC's Gale Databases would have cost a total of \$4.6M for libraries and schools in FY24 if purchased individually. Because SLRC buys them at a consortium rate, the same number of people get access for only \$618,000.
- Libraries, schools, and local governments throughout the state benefit from the high-speed internet connection service provided at no cost to recipients through the State Library Resource Center.
- SLRC has a collection of nearly one million items. Many of these items are rare, historic, or directly relevant to Maryland. No other library in the state can afford to purchase and maintain such items.
- Maryland library staff are required to maintain a number of ongoing professional development training credit hours to remain certified in the state. SLRC provides free trainings to help fulfill those requirements. Additionally, SLRC provides public programs for people across the state. In FY24 SLRC provided 154 library trainings and public programs for statewide audiences, for a total of 5,778 participants.

Thank you for your past support of the State Library Resource Center, and we ask that you **favorably recommend SB 515** for passage.

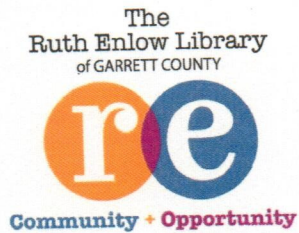
Sincerely,

Tonya Aikens,
President & CEO

SB 515 testimony - Support.pdf

Uploaded by: Thomas Vose

Position: FAV



Senator Guy Guzzone, Chair
Senator Jim Rosapepe, Vice-Chair
Budget and Taxation Committee
3 West Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

January 31, 2025

Dear Senator Guzzone, Senator Rosapepe, and members of the Committee:

I would like to express my support for **SB 515: 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