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BILL:	HB593 – Public Libraries Automated External Defibrillator Program (Raymono A. Russell Act)	DATE:	February 12, 2025
SUBJECT:	AEDs in public libraries	COMMITTEE:	Ways and Means
TESTIMONY FROM:	Carrie Willson, Executive Director, Calvert Library	POSITION:	Support with amendment

Dear Chair Atterbeary, Vice Chair Wilkins and members of the Committee,

I respectfully request an amendment to **HB593 – Public Libraries Automated External Defibrillator Program (Raymono A. Russell Act)**. This bill requires public libraries to have an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) in each facility and to have that device registered with the MD Department of Health and the MD Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems (MIEMSS). I respectfully ask that 23-102.2 (B) (3), requiring a trained operator be present any time the library is open, be struck from the bill.

Calvert Library locations have had an AED device for many years. Calvert County Government installed them, maintains them and has them registered with MIEMSS and the national registry. We do offer the County’s first aid and CPR training to library staff when the County has open seats and it works with the branch staffing schedule. Calvert Library locations are open 57 hours a week. It would be an undue burden for managers to ensure that there is someone trained in the use of AEDs each hour that we are open at all four locations.

Alternatively, we could train each of our 86 public service staff every two years. The County does not have the capacity to add an adequate number of seats for our staff, we would have to hire trainers, which is not financially feasible for our system.

I appreciate this effort to improve safety in one of our most visible public spaces. However, I respectfully request that the training requirement be removed in order to make this implementable across the state

Sincerely,

Carrie Willson
Executive Director, Calvert Library

