Cecil County Public LIBRARY

BILL:	**HB1277**	**DATE:**	March 6, 2026
SUBJECT:	Education-Maryland Institute for Literacy and Equity-Establishment	**COMMITTEE:**	House Appropriations
TESTIMONY FROM:	Rachel Wright, Executive Director, Cecil County Public Library	**POSITION:**	**Support**

Dear Chair Barnes, Vice Chair Kaiser, and Members of the Committee:

Cecil County Public Library (CCPL) respectfully supports **HB 1277 – Education – Maryland Institute for Literacy and Equity-Establishment,** which establishes the Maryland Institute for Literacy and Equity organized as a partnership between the University of Maryland, College Park Campus and Morgan State University to serve as a State–funded research and technical assistance center to promote literacy in the State.

Literacy and Maryland's public libraries go hand in hand. Serving as the out-of-school learning environment for students of all ages, libraries regularly connect the community to critical literacy programs and resources. A partnership between the Maryland Institute for Literacy and Equity and public libraries to connect the literacy work of libraries to evidence-based practices and statewide technical assistance would most certainly enhance literacy skills development for all Marylanders.

Currently, Cecil County Public Library is working with the Maryland Institute for Literacy and Equity to conduct research on the innovative literacy program, Reading Buddies, where community volunteers trained in literacy practices meet at the library weekly with elementary students to develop and practice reading skills. Preliminary results are promising, and HB1277 would encourage similar collaborations in support of literacy. **Therefore, Cecil County Public Library supports HB 1277 – Education – Maryland Institute for Literacy and Equity-Establishment.**

Best,

Rachel Wright

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