



February 16, 2026

The Honorable Guy Guzzone
Chair, Budget & Taxation Committee
3 West Miller Senate Office Building
11 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: SB410 State Library Resource Center Funding Calculation

Dear Chair Guzzone:

I am writing in support of SB410 to alter the funding calculation for the State Library Resource Center (SLRC). I have served in and worked with Maryland libraries in numerous capacities over the past three decades—currently as President of Citizens for Maryland Libraries—and have witnessed firsthand how critical state funding is to the success of our libraries and the communities they serve.

Maryland's libraries are a model of collaboration and resource sharing to maximize services to communities across the state. Nowhere is this more evident than the support provided by SLRC. There has been record-breaking engagement with library services with 267,704 reference questions and nearly 300,000 materials lent through interlibrary loan. And a little-known yet critical detail is that SLRC provides free internet connectivity to most public libraries and 25 municipalities, government agencies, and schools.

Access to electronic resources through the SLRC consortium has saved the state nearly \$4 million. This is critical to communities both large and small but is especially impactful in smaller communities with smaller budgets where they would not have the same level of access without SLRC. However, Enoch Pratt Free Library has had to supplement \$1.79 million from its general fund to protect essential services and still, cuts were necessary to Pratt's materials budget to balance the shortfall created by the funding calculation not keeping pace with the needs of the state.

I urge the committee to vote favorably for this modest alteration to the funding calculation for SLRC so that the excellent level of service provided to communities by our libraries can continue.

Sincerely,

Andrea D. Lewis
President, Citizens for Maryland Libraries