

BILL:	SB0378	DATE:	February 9, 2026
SUBJECT:	Regional Resource Centers and County Libraries-Funding	COMMITTEE:	Senate, Budget & Taxation Subcommittee
TESTIMONY FROM:	Rachel Wright, Executive Director, Cecil County Public Library	POSITION:	Support

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

Cecil County Public Library (CCPL) fully supports funding for the **SB378- Regional Resource Centers and County Libraries-Funding** which extends per capita increases for county libraries and regional resource centers through FY32.

State funding is critical to the success of Maryland public libraries and the communities they serve. With the current funding cycle set to expire at the end of FY27, failure to support the proposed per capita funding will negatively impact the crucial work libraries do to advance and uplift the millions of Marylanders who rely on them.

Public libraries are community hubs. They lead the way in providing programs, spaces, and initiatives that support the diverse needs of all Marylanders. Just last year, Maryland libraries reported 17 million visits – with each visit representing an individual who turned to their library for something they needed. When libraries support individuals and provide access to the resources, information, or technology they need to start a new business, get a better-paying job, or learn a new skill, libraries are raising up and advancing the entire community.

Public libraries prioritize access and inclusivity. They not only open their doors to welcome the community to brick and mortar locations across the state, but they also intentionally seek out those who lack transportation, who are underserved, or who are geographically isolated by taking mobile libraries and services directly to them. Whether visiting neighborhoods, shelters, community centers, or community events, libraries ensure all Marylanders, not just some Marylanders, have access to critical materials, resources, and information no matter where they are or what their circumstance may be.

As the cost of living continues to rise, Marylanders depend even more heavily on all that public libraries have to offer. State funding is critical to ensuring not only the success of Maryland libraries, but also the success of every Marylander who visits their library for resources, support, access, and information.

On behalf of our community and of all those throughout the state, Cecil County Public Library supports SB 378 – Regional Resource Centers and County Libraries-Funding.

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

Truly,

Rachel Wright

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