



February 16, 2026

RE: **Senate Bill 410** – Public Libraries – State Library Resource Center – Funding

Position: **Favorable**

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

I write in strong support of Senate Bill 410 and respectfully request a favorable report.

The State Library Resource Center (SLRC) is an essential partner for county library systems, including the Anne Arundel County Public Library, enabling local libraries to maximize limited resources while expanding equitable access for residents statewide.

Anne Arundel County is often viewed as suburban, but the southern half of the county is distinctly rural, with communities that face challenges similar to those in Western Maryland, Southern Maryland, and the Eastern Shore. For these areas—where residents may have fewer nearby institutions and limited local collections, just as in our county, SLRC plays a critical role in ensuring access to high-quality library resources regardless of geography.

Anne Arundel County Public Library staff directly benefit from SLRC-provided continuing education and professional development. Librarians and other library workers from our system regularly participate in SLRC training, strengthening frontline services and ensuring that residents in both suburban and rural branches receive knowledgeable, high-quality assistance.

Anne Arundel County residents also rely on SLRC's statewide resource-sharing network. Through Maryland Interlibrary Loan, our libraries borrow books and materials beyond local collections, giving customers—particularly those in rural communities—access to specialized, academic, and hard-to-find resources efficiently and at no additional cost.

Anne Arundel County  
Public Library  
5 Harry S. Truman Parkway  
Annapolis MD 21401  
**410-222-7371**  
aacpl.net

Our system benefits from participation in Digital Maryland, which allows Anne Arundel County libraries to contribute to and access digitized historical and cultural materials. This is especially valuable for rural communities, where digital access expands reach while preserving local history for future generations.

SLRC-supported databases are heavily used by Anne Arundel County K-12 students and educators, providing reliable, curriculum-aligned research tools. These databases are also widely used by county library customers of all ages, supporting workforce development, lifelong learning, and informed civic engagement.

Through SLRC's statewide purchasing and service model, Maryland achieves significant cost savings while ensuring that rural and urban counties alike have equitable access to high-quality electronic resources. Senate Bill 410 proposes a modest, disciplined adjustment to sustain this proven system beginning in FY2028.

For these reasons, we respectfully urge the Committee to issue a favorable report on Senate Bill 410.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Skip Auld". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Skip" being more prominent than the last name "Auld".

Charles M. "Skip" Auld  
Chief Executive Officer