

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to express my strong support for SB0410, which updates and stabilizes funding for the State Library Resource Center, ensuring that public libraries across Maryland have the resources they need to serve our communities effectively.

The proposed per-resident funding of \$2.17 for FY 2028 represents approximately \$13.5 million annually, a modest portion of the state budget. This approach is predictable, sustainable, and scales naturally with population growth, allowing libraries to plan ahead while continuing to provide vital services.

Libraries are essential public institutions that provide access to books, digital materials, educational programs, technology, and community resources for all Maryland residents. SB0410 ensures that these services remain available, equitable, and high-quality across urban and rural areas alike. By maintaining stable funding for the State Library Resource Center, this bill supports literacy, lifelong learning, and community engagement statewide.

I strongly urge the committee to vote in favor of SB0410 and continue Maryland's commitment to robust, sustainable support for our public libraries.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Thompson