



February 9, 2026

The Honorable Senator Guy Guzzone
Maryland Senate Budget and Taxation Committee
Miller Senate Office Building, 3 West Wing
11 Bladen St.
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: Maryland Senate Bill 378: Educational Resource Centers and County Libraries – Funding

Senator Guzzone,

I am writing to you on behalf of the Board of Directors and the members of Citizens for Maryland Libraries to support Senate Bill 378.

Citizens for Maryland Libraries is a nonprofit organization that works to support positive legislation and funding for Maryland's libraries. We exist because we firmly believe that libraries are part of the foundation of a free, open, and educated society.

While our association supports this bill entirely, these points stand out:

- Library funding has not matched the increase in costs. In order to maintain the current level of service. Increased funding would allow libraries to continue existing services.
- The cost of e-books and downloadable audiobooks has also risen. This reduces the ability of libraries to provide service in an increasingly digital age. This is an issue for all library users but particularly those who have vision, hearing or mobility limitations.
- Service to the regional libraries in Southern Maryland, the Eastern Shore, and Western Maryland is critical. Libraries in those areas truly need support in order to provide service that is on par with that of Maryland citizens in more well-funded areas.

Maryland libraries are known nationwide for service, education and innovation. Our organization and all Maryland citizens thank you for your support of this bill.

Sincerely,

James (Jim) DeArmey, Executive Director
Citizens for Maryland Libraries
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