



BILL:	SB 378 Regional Resource Centers and County Libraries Funding	DATE:	February 9, 2026
SUBJECT:	Regional Resource Centers and County Libraries Funding	COMMITTEE:	SENATE BUDGET & TAXATION
TESTIMONY FROM:	Mary Hastler, CEO HARFORD COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY	POSITION:	Support

Dear Chair Senator Guzzone, Vice Chair Senator Rosapepe and members of the Committee:

I am writing in support of **SB 378 – Regional Resource Centers and County Libraries – Funding** which is intended to extend per capita increases for the county libraries and regional resources centers through FY32.

These funding increases will help sustain the important work that libraries perform in your local communities. Maryland libraries provide robust access to a wide range of services to support lifelong learning, from developing a love of reading and early literacy skills for infants and pre-school children – hosting nearly 30,000 programs for ages birth through five, with total attendance of 900,000 – to providing a wide range of adult programs including workforce training, tax assistance, legal aid, and technology assistance.

Support for the regional resource centers are vital to providing these services in small and rural counties, including eBooks, premium databases, and audio and video content and providing opportunities for our children, families and communities.

Over the past decade, the increasing costs of providing library services (42%) has outpaced inflation (31.8%), Extending the increases of the state share allows us to continue to meet increased operating costs and public service demands and levels the playing field for some of our most vulnerable communities. We respectfully ask that you fund public libraries and regional libraries at a level that will ensure sustaining equity and access throughout Maryland to our families and communities.

On behalf of the Harford County Public Library Board of Trustees, Library Staff and our community, we strongly support **SB 378 – Regional Resource Centers and County Libraries Funding**.