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BILL:	SB378	DATE:	February 11, 2026
SUBJECT:	Education – Regional Resource Centers and County Libraries -- Funding	COMMITTEE:	Budget and Taxation
TESTIMONY FROM:	Carrie Willson, Executive Director, Calvert Library	POSITION:	Support


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

I am writing in support of **SB 378 – Education – Regional Resource Centers and County Libraries – Funding**, which provides modest per-capita increases for Regional Resource Centers and public library systems for FY2028–FY2032. This funding is essential to sustain the critical work public libraries provide across Maryland.

Calvert Library continues to feel the impact of challenging county budgets alongside growing community needs. During the pandemic, we invested in hotspots and Chromebooks to ensure residents could stay connected to work, school, and community—and that demand remains strong. Every day, our staff help customers build digital and information literacies, apply for jobs online, use downloadable resources, and access both physical and digital materials. Our public school teachers rely on students’ Calvert Library cards, which grant access to reliable information, primary sources, and a robust collection of downloadable books.

The Southern Maryland Regional Library Association (SMRLA) and the other regional libraries are invaluable to Maryland’s rural counties. SMRLA provides our shared digital collection in Libby, professional development, IT software and support, cataloging and processing services, and daily delivery among the eleven locations in Calvert, Charles, and St. Mary’s Counties. By centralizing these back-office operations, local libraries can focus resources on direct public service—an efficient model that yields an exceptional return on investment for Marylanders.

On behalf of the Board of Library Trustees, our dedicated staff, and our 35,000+ active cardholders, I respectfully urge a **favorable report on SB 378**.

Sincerely,

Carrie Willson
Executive Director, Calvert Library

