

February 9, 2026

The Honorable Guy Guzzone

Chair, Senate Budget and Taxation Committee

3 West Miller Senate Office Building

11 Bladen Street

Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: SB378- Education- Regional Resource Centers & County Libraries-Funding: SUPPORT

Dear Chair Guzzone:

I am writing in support of SB378, to strengthen funding for Maryland's three regional resource library centers, and for the state's county libraries. Since state support expires in FY27, SB378 extends funding beginning in FY28, continuing through FY32. The annual per capita increase of 3% for regional libraries and 3.21% for county libraries ensures libraries can continue to meet public service demands. This ensures quality library staff, who are available during existing library operating hours. Special programs and training opportunities are available to all Marylanders, because our local libraries have the capacity to provide such services. Well-trained staff are needed to organize and implement these programs.

As a Maryland resident and in my capacity as vice chair of the Maryland State Library Board, I have had the pleasure of visiting several libraries throughout Maryland. I can attest that libraries are a gathering place for families and community. These libraries provide more than books. They offer internet access, and the usage of this free service has increased 657% since 2014. Statewide, over 20,000 programs are offered for children under five years of age, and this strengthens early literacy skills.

I ask for your support and for the support of the committee to sustain quality services throughout Maryland's county libraries and the regional library system.

Sincerely,



Mychelle Farmer, MD

Vice Chair, Maryland State Library Board