

BILL:	SB0535	DATE:	March 2, 2026
SUBJECT:	County Boards of Library Trustees-Student Member	COMMITTEE:	Senate Education, Energy, and Environment Committee
TESTIMONY FROM:	Rachel Wright, Executive Director, Cecil County Public Library	POSITION:	Support

Dear Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and Members of the Committee:

Cecil County Public Library (CCPL) respectfully supports **SB0535-County Boards of Library Trustees-Student Member**, which authorizes, but does not require, county library boards to include a student member on the Board of Library Trustees.

The Cecil County Public Library consistently prioritizes services to teens and provides them numerous opportunities for community and library engagement. A shining example of this is CCPL's Youth Board, where a cohort of juniors and seniors gain knowledge of library services and governance, develop leadership and community skills, and gain practical skills applicable to success in future pursuits. In recent years, with the goal of improving mental health outcomes for teens, CCPL's Youth Board successfully hosted Mental Health Nights for teens at multiple branches.

Engaging and empowering students is integral to community success, and we are grateful for this bill, which would permit local boards to include youth representation, if they so choose. Allowing boards to appoint a student member through a locally determined process supports meaningful participation while also preserving local control and ensuring consideration of community needs.

Cecil County Public Library, therefore, supports SB0535 – County Board of Library Trustees-Student Member which would allow county library boards to elect to include student members.

Thank you for your ongoing support of Maryland libraries and communities.

Truly,



Rachel Wright
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