



March 2, 2026

**Re: Support for SB 535 – Student Members on County Boards of Library Trustees**

The Honorable Brian J. Feldman, Chair  
The Honorable Cheryl C. Kagan, Vice Chair  
Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee  
2 West Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

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

On behalf of the Wicomico Public Library Board of Trustees, I respectfully submit this letter in support of Senate Bill 535 regarding student members on county boards of library trustees.

We are grateful for the sponsor's inclusion of language that allows local boards to directly appoint a student member. Providing this flexibility honors local governance and enables each board to establish a selection process that reflects its community and policy priorities.

The Wicomico Public Library values youth engagement, and we believe that student voices can contribute meaningfully to board deliberations. Allowing boards to appoint a student member through a locally determined process supports both meaningful participation and appropriate oversight.

For these reasons, the Wicomico Public Library Board of Trustees urges the Committee to give SB 535 a favorable report.

Thank you for your leadership and continued support of Maryland's public libraries.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Schlehofer', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Michele Schlehofer  
Secretary, Board of Trustees  
Wicomico Public Library