

March 2, 2026

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 th

Annapolis e Environment Co Building

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2 West Miller Senate Office, MD 21401

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

On behalf of the Talbot County Free 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 Talbot County Free 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. Our library board has two student liaison members that regularly contribute to discussion and give insight into what yourh need and want from the library. For these reasons, the Talbot County Free 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,

Dana Newman

Director

Talbot County Free Library