



February 24, 2026

The Honorable Delegate Jheanelle K. Wilkins  
Chair, House Ways and Means Committee  
131 Taylor House Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

The Honorable Delegate Jessica Feldmark  
Vice Chair, House Ways and Means Committee  
131 Taylor House Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Chair Wilkins and Vice Chair Feldmark:

On behalf of the Wicomico Public Library Board of Trustees, I respectfully submit this letter in support of House Bill 586 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 HB 586 a favorable report.

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

Sincerely,

Brian Bergen-Aurand  
Chair, Board of Trustees  
Wicomico Public Library