



Chairwoman Maggie McIntosh
House Appropriations Committee
House Office Building -Room 121
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

February 10, 2021

RE: House Bill 436 - Enoch Pratt Free Library – Operating Hours and Funding
Position: Support

Dear Chairwoman McIntosh and Members of the House Appropriations Committee,

On behalf of the Enoch Pratt Free Library, our Board of Trustees, and the citizens of Baltimore, we respectfully request support for **House Bill 436 - Enoch Pratt Library-Operating Hours and Funding**.

As you may be aware, this legislation dates back to January of 2016 when the Pratt Library made the courageous decision to keep our doors open to the public in the wake of the Freddie Gray unrest. That moment sparked a renewed recognition for the important role that the Pratt Library System plays as a vital resource for the community. Since that time, funding from this legislation has enabled Enoch Pratt Library branches to expand its hours to include evenings and weekends.

Since library hours were expanded the Pratt has seen:

- 25% increase in collection use
- 43% increase in Wi-Fi usage
- 10% increase in reference materials which supports educational studies
- 65% increase in social media followers

HB 436 Expanded Operating Hours Funding mandates \$3.0 million annually from the State which is matched by \$750,000 from the City of Baltimore. Passage of this legislation is vital to maintaining this level of service. Without this legislation the Pratt will be forced to reduce services and lay off workers at a time when the citizens of Baltimore need the range of services offered by the Enoch Pratt Free Library.

Thank you for your ongoing support of the Pratt and our commitment to providing expanded hours of operation and services to advance the library's dedication to equity, inclusion, and greater access to enhance the quality of life for Baltimore City residents.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Heidi Daniel", is positioned above a horizontal line.

Heidi Daniel (Feb 4, 2021 10:15 EST)

Heidi Daniel
Chief Executive Officer






Approps EPFL Letter (1)

Final Audit Report

2021-02-04

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