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Senator Guy Guzzone  
Senate Budget and Taxation Committee  
3 West-Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

January 29, 2021

**RE: Senate Bill 477 Enoch Pratt Free Library – Operating Hours and Funding  
Position: Support**

Dear Chairman Guzzone and Members of the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee,

On behalf of the Enoch Pratt Free Library, and the all the citizens of Maryland, I respectfully request support of **Senate Bill 477 - Enoch Pratt Library-Operating Hours and Funding**. I am the Chair of the Governmental Relations Taskforce for the MD Association of Public Library Administrators. The resources, expertise and training that all Maryland residents receive from Enoch Pratt Free Library and the State Library Resource Center (SLRC) are invaluable. Since 2016 when the Pratt courageously stayed open during the unrest following the death of Freddy Gray. Since that time, funding from this legislation has enabled Enoch Pratt Library branches to expand their hours to include evenings and weekends. Not only is this a basic level of service enjoyed by residents of every Maryland County, but for the SLRC to provide the support relied on by public and school libraries around the state, the Pratt's hours need to be kept whole.

We urge your support for HB 436 which will provide the funding to allow the Pratt to continue expanding its operating hours at a time when residents need the resources the most to thrive during COVID recovery.

Thank you for your ongoing support of the Enoch Pratt Library, the State Library Resource Center and public libraries throughout Maryland.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in purple ink that reads "Carrie Willson".

Carrie Willson  
Executive Director, Calvert Library

cc: Heidi Daniel – CEO, Enoch Pratt Free Library  
Gordon Krabbe-COO, Enoch Pratt Free Library

