



**Testimony in Support of SB 501 Libraries – Aging Infrastructure
Capital Improvement Grant Program before the Budget and Taxation Committee
February 28, 2023**

Dear Chairman Guzzone, Vice-Chair Rosapepe and Distinguished Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the Worcester County Library Foundation, I submit this letter of support of SB 501 which focuses on establishing the Aging Infrastructure Capital Improvement Grant Program to be administered by the Maryland State Library Agency.

This program supports upgrades to older libraries and ensures the communities have access to up to date library services. Library services are particularly needed in rural, underserved communities.

Current efforts are underway in Worcester County to design and build a new library in Pocomoke. This community has unique needs, and the library is a hub of the community. Twenty percent (20%) of the children in Pocomoke live below the poverty line, and the proposed library site is located within walking distance of three public schools serving students preK-12th grade.

The current library is housed in a building that is over 50 years old. The library has outgrown the current space. A new library will enhance not only the town of Pocomoke but also the surrounding rural area. Access to computers and internet connections is essential to this area; an upgraded facility will better serve the residents.

The Worcester County Library Foundation enthusiastically supports this legislation.

Sincerely,

Donna R. Main, Ed.D.

Worcester County Library Foundation member
Worcester County Public Schools Educator (retired)