

It is the job of libraries to provide materials that represent a broad range of interests, beliefs, academic and leisure pursuits, etc. Not every book will be desired by nor appropriate for every reader. Librarians should be protected from being penalized for following their own employers' policies.

Individuals should not have the ability to remove access to materials that are appreciated and needed by others. Adults and families must have the freedom to choose and read the materials that are right for them.

This bill empowers libraries, library workers, school and library boards to ensure that policies exist and are adhered to that safeguard this essential freedom.

EPFL/SLRC advocates for the passage of this bill with the following technical amendment:

Throughout the State Law of Maryland there are several places where “County Library Systems” implicitly or explicitly applies to the Enoch Pratt Free Library in Baltimore City, which functions as a County Library System. However, we have received some questions from our Board and concerned citizens that we are not included in the bill as written. **We advocate for the bill to be passed with amendment to change all instances of “County Library Systems” to “County Library Systems and the Enoch Pratt Free Library in Baltimore.”**

Sincerely,

Liz Sundermann-Zinger

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