

February 8, 2022



Joint Legislative Oversight and Sunset Committee
151st General Assembly, Second Session

To the Chair, Vice-Chair, and Honorable Members of the Committee:

The Delaware Library Association is writing to you to endorse the January 2022 JLOSC Staff Findings and Recommendations Report concerning the Delaware Council on Libraries. In particular, we are recommending to the Committee that the Council on Libraries continues and that the Legislature considers important modifications to its statutory authority including the addition of school libraries and librarians in the Council's composition. This will be useful to libraries and the people they serve.

The Delaware Library Association (DLA) is our state's largest and oldest membership organization representing librarians, library workers, board members, and library stakeholders working in and supporting public, academic, school and special libraries. Our membership sees first-hand the importance of the Council on Libraries. As the Council noted in its August 2021 Self Report to this Committee, the Council "unifies decision-making, ensuring quality business practices [in libraries] across the state."

We would like to encourage the Committee to make a referral to the Legislature consistent with the Staff Findings and Recommendations Report concerning revision to statutes that enable the Council to better fulfill its core role. This would include updating the composition of the Council to include a member of the school library community, among other recommendations. Taken together, these revisions would strengthen the Council's ability to serve school libraries and public libraries at scale and across new and emerging technologies. The anticipated efficiencies and synergies that would come from these statutory revisions would positively impact library services in every county and school district.

Thank you for considering our recommendations. We appreciate your attention to the Council of Libraries and look forward to supporting your findings.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Wilson

Jennifer Wilson
President, Delaware Library Association

DELAWARE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

121 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. N. | Dover, Delaware 19901 | 302-257-3014 | dla@lib.de.us
dla.lib.de.us

Friends of Delaware Libraries

February 14, 2022

Joint Legislative Oversight and Sunset Committee
Representative Sherry Dorsey Walker, Chair
Senator Kyle Evans Gay, Vice Chair
151st General Assembly, Second Session

To the Chair, Vice Chair, and Honorable Members of the Joint Legislative Oversight and Sunset Committee:

The Friends of Delaware Libraries is writing to you to endorse the continuance of the Council on Libraries as detailed in the January 2022 JFLOSC Staff Finds and Recommendations Report. The Friends of Delaware Libraries' mission is to support the work of local public libraries and advocate on both the local and national level on issues related to our libraries. We appreciate your attention to the Council on Libraries and look forward to supporting your findings.

As described by statute, the Council on Libraries has a five-fold charge of: addressing library stands and service areas; refining library construction grants; advising on federal LSTA funding priorities; supporting the strategic direction of the Delaware Library Consortium; and providing objectivity to intellectual freedom challenges are ongoing responsibilities that directly and positively impact the quality and effectiveness of library services in our state.

As we consider Recommendation #2 from the Staff Report, we agree in general and we also want to encourage the Committee to include school libraries in any potential update to the composition of the Council. Revising the composition of the Council to include the school library community would expand the ability of public, academic and school libraries to work together.

Thank you for considering our recommendations,

Kay Bowes, President
Friends of Delaware Libraries

Board of Directors:
Sonja Brown
Theo Loppatto
Robert Wetherall

Gwen Elliott
Steve Newton
Kay Wheatley