Today, USMAI has issued a statement of support for Maryland Attorney General Brian Frosh's defense of new state legislation, "Public Libraries — Electronic Literary Product Licenses, Access" (HB518/SB432), against a complaint filed by the Association of American Publishers, Inc. (AAP). USMAI's statement highlights that the Maryland Attorney General's response "stresses that the law is narrowly tailored to address compelling state interests: to rectify unfair trade practices, to advance the purpose of public libraries, and to promote equitable access to information by individuals who do not have easy access to the physical premises of public libraries, including people living in rural areas, people with disabilities, children, and the elderly." The member libraries of USMAI are "deeply grateful" and note that while the law "may not directly affect research and academic libraries within Maryland, the law benefits members of the USMAI community and their families, who rely on public libraries to meet their personal information needs."

The AAP has until January 28th to respond. A hearing is set for February 7 on the AAP's motion for a preliminary injunction and on the Maryland Attorney General's motion to dismiss the case.

Read the full USMAI statement below.