



To Whom It May Concern:

As Library Director of the McKenzie County Public Library, Chair of the North Dakota Library Coordinating Council, President-Elect for the North Dakota Library Association, and an advocate for libraries across North Dakota, I wanted to offer my written testimony as you enter the 67th Legislative Assembly.

During the Covid-19 pandemic, our libraries have stepped up to not only support each other but also to support our communities through innovation and determination. This is in no small part due to the dedication of our librarians statewide.

Oftentimes I'm asked if libraries are still relevant given that our society is so technologically driven; my response is a resounding yes. Libraries continue to transform, day by day, to adapt to the ever changing needs and anticipated needs of the communities we serve.

The services offered via our libraries and through the North Dakota State Library to all North Dakota residents are vital in creating a sense of unity for all that live within our great state, especially those in more rural locations. Regardless of location, individuals can access a variety of digital services such as genealogy, language learning software, continuing education credits and more. While these digital offerings weren't brought forth as a result of the pandemic, our library has seen an increase in both awareness and use as a result.

Additionally, libraries are more than just a location to borrow materials such as books. Our libraries act as community hubs offering sanctuary to all who gather within our walls and it is more important than ever before to ensure our libraries have adequate funding and support going forward.

To value libraries is to value the success of our state, our communities, and most importantly the individuals we serve.

I thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Galeazzo
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