



January 15, 2025

Representative Nathe and Members of the House Appropriations Education and Environment Division,

My name is Andrea Placher, and I serve as the President of the North Dakota Library Association. I am writing to express our strong support for HB 1013, particularly regarding the budget for the North Dakota State Library.

Libraries across the state greatly benefit from the resources provided by the State Library. Thanks to its financial assistance, community members in North Dakota have access to valuable online resources such as Mango Languages, Universal Class, and Overdrive.

Many academic, public, and school libraries have utilized the various grant opportunities offered by the State Library. Recent projects funded by these grants have included the installation of security cameras, updated public seating, a 9-hole miniature golf set, STEAM kits, maker spaces, and the creation and enhancement of book collections. For our smaller libraries, these grants represent the only opportunity to make such improvements.

The state aid received by libraries throughout North Dakota is essential for their financial stability. In some cases, these funds are what keep the lights on and the doors open for their communities. Without the support of the State Library, community members across the state would miss out on essential services.

The State Library's new initiative, the Interlibrary Loan (ILL) Bridge, will significantly enhance library services statewide by providing libraries with more efficient access to different collections. This initiative will also eliminate the fees that some libraries currently incur for interlibrary loan services on the OCLC platform.

Our role as an association is to advocate for libraries, their staff, and their communities. We have a long-standing and overwhelmingly positive relationship with the North Dakota State Library, which has been an essential partner in assisting us with our mission.

Thank you for your consideration.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Andrea Placher". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Andrea Placher

President | North Dakota Library Association