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January 14, 2025

North Dakota House Appropriations Committee
ND State Capitol
600 E Boulevard Avenue
Bismarck, ND 58505

Dear Committee Members:

As the Director of the Carrington City Library, I submit testimony in favor of HB 1013. Providing funding for public education and public libraries is essential, especially in our rural North Dakota community.

As I am currently the public library director in Carrington, I am even more aware of the vital need we have for the North Dakota State Library. Over the past five years as director, my appreciation for the work of this agency and my awareness of the vast resources they provide has grown exponentially. Carrington City Library is essentially a one-man operation, and without the tools and resources provided through the State Library, we would not be able to offer the range of programs and services we are able to offer. We utilize the Overdrive consortium; summer reading, talking books, and state park pass programs. The State Library provides inter-library loan services so that our patrons can acquire needed books from across the state and beyond. The State Library provides our Internet access and our E-Rate filtering system so that our child patrons are protected. Without the State Library, we would not have received grants to develop a collection of children's audiobooks and STEM-to-Go kits, and a Makerspace with 3D printer and Lego Robotics kits. We are able to make a significant difference in our community because of the resources provided through the North Dakota State Library

The Department of Public Instruction has provided Summer Reading grants which have provided funding to build and grow our summer reading program. Through these grants, we have acquired many popular books to support reading throughout the summer. We offer a weekly variety of programs to offer our children engaging activities including robotics, arts and crafts and science-based learning. We are deeply appreciative of these grant opportunities.

Please consider fully and generously funding the North Dakota State Library and the Department of Public Instruction to ensure that small, rural North Dakota libraries can continue their role as vital and vibrant community resources.

Sincerely

Michele Seil
Director
Carrington City Library