

HB 1013 - In Favor

January 23, 2025

Chairman Nathe and the Members of the House Appropriations Committee,

I am asking you to support HB 1013, which will continue to fund the essential services of the State Library, the School for the Deaf, the School for the Blind, the Center for Distance Education, and the Department of Public Instruction. These agencies are essential to the well-being of all residents of North Dakota and the quality of life for residents of all income levels. They provide critical resources including online electronic databases and books, talking books, inter-library borrowing of materials, and other materials not available nor affordable to smaller libraries.

In particular, I am asking you to fully fund the State Library. This organization is critical to the success of libraries, as well as North Dakota citizens, by providing much-needed resources and access that otherwise would not be possible. Homeschooling families, job seekers, taxpayers, new parents, pre-kindergarten learners, teens, the elderly, the lonely, and more all depend on libraries and the support provided by the State Library. In addition, the State Library helps train and support libraries, library staff members, and library board members in all aspects of library services and management.

A critical project in the ND State Library's budget is the ILL (Interlibrary Loan) Bridge, which would enable all libraries in the state to borrow from other ND libraries and, in turn, expand all libraries' collections to our library users. Many of the smallest libraries in the state struggle to cover the costs of interlibrary loans and this funding would make that much more reasonable.

Thank you so much for your time and consideration. North Dakota citizens and libraries ask that you vote in favor of HB 1013.

Sincerely,

Wendy Wendt, Director
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