

January 26, 2025

Dear Representative Nathe and members of the House Appropriations Education and Environment Division,

My name is Rachel Waldo, and I am writing in support of House Bill No. 1013, with specific focus on funding the North Dakota State Library. I have been working in the field of librarianship for approximately two years in the state of North Dakota, and in that time, it has become abundantly clear the multitude of ways in which the State Library supports our communities.

First, the North Dakota State Library provides many direct services for library patrons that many rural libraries across the state would not otherwise be able to afford. These services include, but are not limited to, digital access to Kanopy's vast archives of documentaries, and Mango Languages which has proven especially vital to the large number of Ukrainian immigrants being welcomed into our communities. Further, the State Library also has access to many materials the common rural library does not, like book club kits to support local literary discussion and social outlets for adults, and these materials are frequently checked out to smaller libraries through the Interlibrary Loan (ILL) program.

Second, the library staff of North Dakota rely on the State Library for access to webinars, written guides, and training. Each year, the North Dakota State Library provides countless hours of invaluable training to better equip library staff to tackle the myriad challenges libraries face in our rapidly evolving world. From programming attendance to marketing, example policies for unhoused people or translation services, the State Library is an invaluable repository of knowledge for every library across our state. This is not even to mention the grants they provide!

Lastly, the staff employed by the North Dakota State Library are some of the brightest stars in the field of librarianship within the state of North Dakota. While I know there are many more rising in libraries throughout the state, the knowledge and drive presented by the current staff are second to none. They support the rural libraries of North Dakota as unsung heroes to thousands of patrons that will never know their names.

For these reasons, I strongly urge your support of HB 1013. Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,  
Rachel Waldo