

Hello,

Please do not pass HB 1141 which forbids public libraries/school/universities from paying for NDLA membership dues and conferences. I am a school librarian. This is an important piece of training for librarians. The focus of the conference is on serving our patrons whether they be in the schools or the communities in the best way possible. Librarians typically do not have many fellow colleagues in their library. The work can be a bit isolating. This conference is offered at a very reasonable price and offers excellent opportunities to grow, learn, and connect right here in North Dakota.

As a librarian new to the profession 9 years ago, I was able to attend this conference. I went to many sessions where more experienced librarians shared how they were teaching their students coding, how they were setting up maker spaces to engage students in critical thinking and creativity and how they were working with parents to run book clubs with small groups before and after school. I also learned about the benefits of our State Library. The STEAM kits and the book club bags were a huge benefit that offered my patrons access to items our individual library could not purchase. These presentations were inspiring. At the end of the conference, I was excited to try new ideas and encouraged to have a fellow educator or two to connect with if I needed more information or someone to problem solve with.

Isolating your librarians will not produce better programming or improve user experiences for your community. Allowing librarians to be inspired and learn from one another will encourage the most positive experiences. Most people crave learning and librarians, as a group, crave that more than many. Allowing us to have a cost effective way to boost our learning and professionalism seems to be a win for the librarians and for the communities who fund them.

Thank you for what you do to enhance the lives of North Dakotans.

Brenda Cain
School Librarian
701.361.8479