

January 26, 2025

I am writing to you in opposition of HB 1141. As a librarian, I rely on training and networking opportunities provided to me through groups such as the North Dakota Library Association and Mountains and Plains Library Association, a regional association that includes North Dakota. Webinars, presentations and annual conferences provided by organizations such as these help me and other librarians improve the ways that we serve our patrons and communities. Conferences introduce us to book vendors, database providers, and state and local services that can help our patrons. Additionally, NDLA's conference provides school librarians one of their only opportunities to earn their required continuing education credits.

Because membership and conference fees can be expensive, some libraries will cover these costs for their staff. My library covers all NDLA fees, as well as conference fees for regional and national conferences if we are able to attend. Most of us bring our work laptops or tablets to conferences, and we all use them for webinars and meetings that occur during our regular work day. HB 1141 will severely limit the ability of North Dakota librarians to participate in professional development opportunities that can help their communities.

I urge you to oppose this bill.

Yours,

Rachel Kercher