



January 23, 2025

Representative Longmuir and Members of the Political Subdivisions Committee,

My name is Andrea Placher, and I am the President of the North Dakota Library Association (NDLA). We are a professional organization representing library employees and supporters across school, public, academic, and special libraries in North Dakota. Our diverse membership includes librarians, library staff, trustees, and friends affiliated with various types and sizes of libraries.

I am writing to passionately advocate for HB 1254. Currently, 62 out of the 82 public libraries in North Dakota are members of the OverDrive Consortium (Libby), giving our communities access to a rich collection of over 65,000 eBooks, audiobooks, and magazines. By allowing every North Dakotan to become a cardholder of the North Dakota State Library, we can extend these invaluable resources to residents in the remaining 20 public library service areas.

Access to the State Library will foster equity in library services and opportunities for all North Dakotans. Many small communities in our state rely on local libraries, which often face challenges such as limited staffing and restricted hours. This demonstrates the urgent need for wider access to library resources.

As an association, we are proud advocates for libraries and their communities. Our longstanding and positive relationship with the North Dakota State Library has been instrumental in supporting our mission.

Thank you for considering this important initiative.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Andrea Placher". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Andrea Placher

President | North Dakota Library Association