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January 29, 2025

Chairman Longmuir and the Members of the House Political Subdivisions Committee,

My name is Kerriane Boetcher, and I am the Ward County Public Library director in Minot, North Dakota. I am asking you to support HB 1254, and I am joining my fellow librarians in asking you to do so.

While most of our public libraries in the state are members of North Dakota Library2Go, our local Overdrive Consortium (Libby), many of our communities do not have access to these materials.

Access to the State Library through a State Library card will open up resources and opportunities for many North Dakotans. I was fortunate enough to get a state library card as a young child in a small town, and it opened up a whole realm of information that I didn't even know existed.

Our small communities are restricted in their access by the challenges faced by their local libraries, such as staffing, restricted hours, and restricted budgets.

Libraries are vital to North Dakota, and the State Library is a vital part of our network, which should be available to all North Dakotans. I ask that you support libraries in North Dakota and vote in favor of HB 1254 as proposed.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kerriane Boetcher". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Kerriane Boetcher

Library Director

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