

**NDAB Resolution 2021-02:**

**State 2021 – 2023 Appropriation for the Talking Book Program at the North Dakota State Library**

Whereas, demographically, North Dakota is among the states with the highest proportion of people per capita who are 55 years of age and older and this is the subpopulation of people who have the highest incidence of significant sight loss that is not medically correctable, and this is a population trend that is expected to accelerate as our population continues to age into the future; and,

Whereas, thousands of North Dakotans, with many types of disabilities in addition to blindness, cannot read standard print and rely on audio books from the talking book program at the State Library for hours of entertainment and a source of valuable information in their daily lives;

Now, Therefore, be it resolved by the Board of the North Dakota Association of the Blind at its meeting on this Sunday, January 10, 2021 that

Given how extremely valuable this program is to so many citizens in our state, that we strongly urge that the Governor and our State Legislature would maintain and strengthen the appropriation that is allotted to the Talking Book Program that is included in the appropriation for the State Library (HB1013) for the 2021 – 2023 biennium.

Further, we strongly urge our North Dakota congressional delegation, Senators Hoeven and Cramer, and Congressman Kelly Armstrong, to work to maintain and increase the amount of federal funding that is appropriated for the NLS Talking Book Program whenever the federal budget is under consideration by the U.S. Congress.