



www.minotlibrary.org ♦ (701) 852-1045
516 2nd Ave SW Minot, ND 58701

March 9, 2023

The Honorable Mike Nathe, Chairman of the House Appropriations Committee – Education and Environment Division
North Dakota State Capitol
600 E. Boulevard Avenue
Bismarck, ND 58505

Dear Chairman Nathe and Members of the House Appropriations Committee:

I urge you to support SB2013, relating to funding for the North Dakota State Library and state aid for public libraries, a formula which was first enacted in 1979.

The North Dakota State Library provides excellent resources to all North Dakota libraries for no additional costs to the libraries or its patrons. Minot residents accessed free, reliable, scholarly resources such as *Academic Search Premiere*, *Business Source Premiere*, *Health Source* and *Science Reference Center* more than 35,000 times in 2022. Further, patrons of the Minot Public Library were able to learn a new language and take online classes 2,988 times in the last year thanks to this funding. Minot Public Library patrons also used the library edition of *Ancestry* to complete 801 searches. All of these resources are available to the patron of our library at no cost to them or us thanks to the ND State Library. These resources have always been invaluable tools as they are peer-reviewed and not influenced by advertisers.

In addition to these invaluable digital resources, State Aid to North Dakota’s public libraries allows funding for resources and programs. In 2023, the Minot Public Library anticipates receiving \$54,000 in state aid for our Library services and this aid is essential. These funds are used not just for developing our collections (books, audiobooks, DVDs, eBooks, etc.), but also for our programs.

Below is just a small list of the services our Library was able to provide in 2022 thanks to state aid from the ND State Library:

- Provide educational programming for 8,857 children
- Add 11,427 items to our circulating collection
- Digitize more than 100 years of the *Minot Daily News* for online access
- Host more than 2,000 teens for after school and summer programs
- Add a circulating collection of “Adventure Packs” including kits for hiking, birdwatching and more
- Held events for 1,549 adults in the Minot community, including one-on-one technology support at area retirement homes

Libraries have always helped people in the community through many life transitions; we assist people in locating affordable housing, creating résumés, applying for jobs and meeting other information needs they may have. In 2020, the Minot Public Library was able to provide resources regarding COVID-19 and staff at the ND State Library were essential in helping vet and promote accurate and reliable resources. More recently, the ND State Library has provided financial support through grants for new circulating collections. Further, the ND State Library continues to provide invaluable virtual training to library staff across the state which assists in our professional development without incurring costs for travel.

In addition to the varied programs, digital resources and other services, sometimes your local library helps by simply offering movies, board games and cookbooks for families to check out at no cost. This is yet another reason why receiving the additional funds via state aid is so important for us – if funding is further reduced we are less able to help our community.

The people of North Dakota know the importance of libraries throughout our state and the positive impact they have in our communities. **I ask that you, too, support libraries in North Dakota and vote in favor of SB2013 as proposed.**

Sincerely,

Joshua Pikka

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