



North Dakota Library Association

Established 1906

LEGISLATIVE ACTION ALERT **January 4, 2017**

The 65th Legislative Assembly convened on Tuesday, January 3rd and NDLA will be sending out legislative action alerts and updates to NDLA members throughout the legislative session.

- NDLA Legislative Action Alerts will inform you of legislation that directly impacts North Dakota libraries and we will be asking you to take specific action in support or opposition of the legislation.
- NDLA Legislative Updates will periodically inform you of what is going on in the session.

“The Early Read” on Governor Burgum’s Budget for Libraries

Governor Doug Burgum outlined his executive budget during his State of the State Address on Monday, January 3rd, 2017. The Governor is working with his leadership team to revise the budget that was suggested by former Governor Dalrymple. While nothing concrete was shared today, there may be deeper cuts for the State Library and other state agencies.

Governor Burgum’s address focused on education, technology and his main street initiative. These are all opportunities for libraries to show their value and impact to the new Governor as they demonstrate how they can support each of these initiatives.

CALL TO ACTION: Show your support during January 12 budget hearing

- The House Appropriations Committee’s hearing on HB1013, the proposed budget for the Department of Public Instruction (DPI), which includes the budget for the State Library, is scheduled for **Thursday, January 12 from 8:30-9:30 AM.**
- State Librarian Mary Soucie will be testifying in support of the DPI budget as it relates to the State Library.

- **NDLA members are encouraged to attend the hearing in support of the proposed budget. Please let State Librarian Mary Soucie know if you plan to attend the hearing and give testimony so she can plan her testimony accordingly. Contact Mary at (701) 328-4654 or via email at msoucie@nd.gov**
- NDLA is putting materials together in support of the budget. If you are unable to attend the hearings, then **please submit brief written testimony in support of the budget.**
- Please email your testimony to State Librarian Mary Soucie by **5:00 PM (CDT) on Tuesday, January 10th**. NDLA will make sure that your testimony is included in the materials that will be presented to the committee.
- In your testimony please briefly emphasize one or all of the following points:
 - The quality of life value our libraries provide to our communities.
 - The social, educational, and economic services our libraries offer.
 - Specific to Governor Burgum's address, services you offer related to:
 - Technology.
 - Small businesses.
 - Human service related partnerships or services that may result in decreased crime/decreased jail sentences.
 - Unique services that illustrate your library's ability to "think outside the box" and evolve with the needs of your community, beyond traditional library services.
 - The need for and importance of quality, reputable information sources, because not all information on the Internet is true.
 - The importance of having a strong network of libraries in our state and how the proposed budget will positively impact the communities and regions we serve.
 - Public libraries, also include ways in which you use your State Aid monies.

Tips on writing testimony: <http://ndla.info/legislative-information/write.htm>

Have questions, comments, or want to get involved?

Contact NDLA Legislative Committee Co-Chairs Janet Anderson (janet.anderson@minotnd.org) or Christine Kujawa (ckujawa@bismarcklibrary.org)