

NDLA Legislative report #18

Kelly Steckler

- ✚ Held a legislative session at annual conference
- ✚ Have met with Ilene Larson, Doris Ott, Cindy Larson, Tom Jones, Jerry Kaup, Cheryl Tollefson, and Marilyn Guttromson at various times to strategize for session
- ✚ Received email lists from NDLA members regarding their agreed-upon sponsors
- ✚ Wrote and posted suggested wording for NDLA members to contact legislators
- ✚ Have been in contact with members about sponsors
- ✚ Spoke to local issues committee of the Bismarck-Mandan Chamber regarding NDLA legislative needs
- ✚ Compiled list of sponsors for bills
- ✚ Wrote to local legislators, called, and obtained sponsors

These are three pieces of legislation moving forward during session:

1. Public libraries are in need of sponsors in order to support a bill, which would change the maintenance of effort part of the State Aid law, making almost all of the public libraries eligible again for State Aid. A resolution drafted at the North Dakota Library Association (NDLA) conference addresses this:

WHEREAS, ND public libraries serve local citizens throughout the state;

WHEREAS, public library State Aid dollars are an essential part of the financial support of local library budgets;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: that NDLA strongly support legislation to reinstate an equitable State Aid formula, worded correctly to distribute state dollars in accordance with the original intent of the legislation.

2. Another NDLA resolution addresses the support necessary for an additional \$200,000 in the budget for State Aid. This request is separate from the maintenance of local effort and is an additional request within the State's supplemental budget.

WHEREAS, total ND public library support in all locales is below the national average of more than \$30 per capita;

WHEREAS, ND public libraries serve a greater majority of local citizens than most other publicly funded institutions;

WHEREAS, ND public libraries fill an important role in encouraging and sustaining livable and appealing local communities;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: that the legislative Assembly urges the Governor of ND to include the supplemental appropriation of an additional \$200,000 for State Aid to public libraries in the 2007-09 biennial budget.

3. A third NDLA resolution was drafted relating to retroactive funding of State Aid for those libraries that did not qualify for funds in 2006. Sponsors are needed for this piece of legislation also.

WHEREAS, public library State Aid support is very important to the operation of local libraries;

WHEREAS, a reinterpretation of the State Statute by the Attorney General has resulted in the loss of State Aid support this past year for many previously qualified public libraries;

WHEREAS, a special legislative bill is being drafted to provide retroactive funding for local libraries which lost State Aid dollars;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: that NDLA support this legislative bill to provide retroactive funding and urge passage by the 2007-09 Legislative Assembly.