

January 26, 2024

The Honorable Ruth Ward
Chair, Senate Education Committee
State House
Concord, NH 03301

The New Hampshire Library Association (NHLA), which represents library personnel, trustees, and library supporters, is in opposition of Senate Bill 523.

NHLA has always supported local control for our library boards and opposed legislation that conflicts with a local community board's ability to adopt library policies that are a best fit for their communities. NHLA stands against the banning or restricting library materials, programs and/or services. NHLA supports the efforts of our local boards to have discussions within their communities to address any reconsideration requests as they arise. This bill seeks to mandate to a duly and locally elected school board how to administer complaints about library materials that are submitted by parents or guardians.

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Thank you,

Deb Hoadley, NHLA President
Rachel Baker, NHLA Vice-President/Director, Elkins Library- Canterbury
Corinne Chronopoulos, NHLA Secretary/Director, Peterborough Library
Sheryl Bass, NHLA Treasurer/Director, Durham Public Library
Justine Farfara, NHLA Officer/Director, Richards Free Library- Newport
Julia Lanter, NHLA Officer/Assistant Director, Exeter Public Library
Denise van Zanten, NHLA Legislative Chair/Director, Manchester City Library