



Representative Kristin Noble, Chair
Education Policy and Administration
Granite Place
Concord, NH 03301

April 6, 2026

Dear Committee Members,

The New Hampshire Library Association (NHLA), which represents library personnel, including school librarians, trustees, and library supporters, is in opposition of Senate Bill 434.

NHLA has always supported local control for our duly elected school boards and has opposed legislation that conflicts with a local community board's ability to adopt school library policies that are a best fit for their communities. This bill overrides local control of the reconsideration policies that districts have already in place.

School boards and school library staff ensure that all materials located on their bookshelves and in classrooms are appropriate for the age groups that they serve. Schools must follow the law, including the directives given by the Department of Education and School Board policies, regarding the selection of educational materials.

The prescriptive nature of the "Right to Challenge" bill places an undue burden on our local schools and school boards. These boards already write policies for their districts and staff are responsible for following those policies. There are mechanisms already in place to ensure compliance and challenge when needed. Communities across the state already have policies that include the items listed in SB 434 including timeliness and appeal processes, making this bill unnecessary.

School librarians are instructional partners who create a culture of collaboration and strive to work effectively with others to curate collections to increase academic achievement, broaden perspectives, and support our students in making informed choices that are the best fit for them, their families and their communities. This bill interferes with this intent, rather than supporting it. Senate Bill 434 should be voted as "**Inexpedient to Legislate**".

Thank you,

Denise van Zanten, NHLA President/Director, Manchester City Library
Sheryl Bass, NHLA Vice President/Director, Durham Public Library
Rachel Baker, NHLA Past President/Director, Elkins Public Library
Corinne Chronopoulos, NHLA Secretary/Director, Peterborough Library
Heather Rainier, NHLA Treasurer/Director, Hookset Public Library