

Hello, I am writing to submit my testimony in opposition to SB 2307.

Public libraries already have protocols in place to review challenges to books in their collections. While patrons may not always agree with the outcomes of such reviews, these reviews are designed to be fair by not removing materials simply because one person wishes the materials to be removed. It should never be up to one individual to get to decide what materials should or shouldn't be in a public library.

In a previous legislative session, the issue of "explicit sexual materials" was already addressed. Coupled with the protocols libraries already have in place, there is no need for additional laws.

SB 2307 use vague language like "not easily accessible." What does this mean exactly?

Additionally, this bill would criminalize librarians. What kind of society does such a thing? Only societies that want to eliminate free speech, diverse opinions, and freedom of thought does such a thing. We have laws in this state and in this country that protect such things.

There are plenty of books, etc. in my local library whose content I disagree with, but I would never seek to have those materials removed. If I don't like something, I don't have to check it out. Same goes for my kids—it is up to me as a parent to decide what I am okay with my kids checking out or not and to monitor that. I thought this state cared about parents' rights?

Ultimately, SB 2307 is only about censorship and has nothing to do with the safety of children. I wish legislators would dedicate the time they are dedicating to passing such legislation to passing bills that would actually make a difference for kids—like free school lunches for all kids (my kids are homeschooled, and I still support free school lunches for all kids). Censorship is a dangerous road to go down. North Dakota can do better than this.

Please oppose SB 2307.

Thank you,

Cathy Breiner
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