

Birgit Pruess, Ph.D.
3696 Harrison St. S
Fargo, ND

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RE: SB2360

Dear members of the 68th Legislative Assembly of North Dakota,

I am resident of Fargo, ND and testifying as a private citizen and not in representation of any group. Please, accept the below as my testimony IN OPPOSITION of SB2360 regarding public libraries.

I am an academic and an intellectual and as such very much appreciate libraries and the work of librarians. I believe in the first amendment as well and that means free speech. To ALL of us. Censorship as such in this bill is not in agreement with those values and I oppose any attempts at banning books from our public libraries.

Of course, I condemn true pornography and certainly when it is provided to children. But the list of 'explicit material' goes beyond the normal definition of pornography, which involves commercialization. Nobody in a public library makes money from a book that contains the description of sex, whether that is in a picture or words.

There is no definition of what constitutes a 'reasonable' adult.

There are educational books that explain sex. And how to avoid getting pregnant. I consider such books useful. Why would we ban them?

Threatening a librarian with a class B misdemeanor for doing their job as in providing books to the general public is not acceptable in a free society.

Has it occurred to anybody that the bible contains sexual content?

If the bill should be passed, it needs to include appropriated funding for libraries to hire the employees that are needed to read every book for sexual content. I don't expect our librarians to know the content of every book they provide.

Altogether, I oppose SB2360 and recommend a DO NOT PASS vote.

As in all my testimonies, I much appreciate the hard work and dedication that each member of my state legislative assembly puts into our state. Thank you.

Sincerely and respectfully
Birgit Pruess