

Dear Honorable Members of House Judiciary Committee,

I would like to urge you to not pass SB2360 for a number of reasons as I will state below.

Libraries are already filtering, and communities already regulate libraries at the local level. This bill is redundant and government overreach that will stifle free speech and remove local control from something already effectively managed at the local level.

In a world with few filters anymore, libraries filter everything through their local policies set by governing boards and community needs using tools that help them select appropriate resources. Community members always have the right to challenge any item based on policies put in place by governing boards. No two communities are alike, and each should be allowed to regulate their libraries as they see fit and not be dictated to by a "nanny state" that seeks more regulation.

This bill is fiscally irresponsible in that it will cost the state and local communities vast amounts of money to comply with something already regulated, as I have said above, through the layers of filters. It will require expanding government at the state and local level, adding additional burdens to governments and taxpayers already stretched thin. Should this bill become law, it will face the inevitable challenges of violating the First Amendment, and those challenges will cost taxpayers additional dollars.

As a citizen and a taxpayer, I oppose a bill that will cost my community and myself while placing control of our libraries in the hands of a law that will ultimately be redundant, unconstitutional and cost taxpayers tons of money.

Respectfully submitted.

Mark Holman, Williston, North Dakota.