

March 12, 2023

Chairman Lawson and Members of the Judiciary Committee:

This testimony is in opposition to SB 2360. I urge you to vote DO NOT PASS.

I have been an English teacher since 2006 and a mother since 2015. My students are college-aged, and my son is about to turn 8. When speaking with my students or with my son, I relay the same message when it comes to discussions of the First Amendment: if you don't like a certain book, leave it on the shelf and move on – your goal should never be to restrict someone else's access to that material.

The federal Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA) requires public schools that receive federal funding to have filters in place on all school and library devices. Public libraries in North Dakota also utilize filters. Schools and public libraries already have established internet policies which include acceptable use policies. The generalized wording in this bill could very easily restrict access to educational resources and, as a mother, the idea of my son's access to library materials being limited is greatly concerning to me.

Additionally, this bill seeks to change the legal definition of obscenity. The Supreme Court ruled on the definition of obscenity over fifty years ago. SB 2360 is one that will surely waste state money and time due to lawsuits and litigation defending First Amendment rights.

I urge you to please vote DO NOT PASS on SB 2360.

Thank you for considering my testimony today and for your service to North Dakota.

Very sincerely,

Erin Price