

Chairman Klemin and members of the House Judiciary. For the record, my name is Farren Richard and I am from Lefor, North Dakota. I am here to speak in favor of Senate Bill 2360.

I want to address some of the testimonies that have provided inaccurate information about the books in the library's juvenile section:

First off, many opposing testimonies bring up the first amendment and hammer on free speech, but the first amendment does not help them in this scenario. Obscenity and pornography are not covered under federal law.

Opposing testimonies constantly discuss the cost that could incur with the passage of this bill; the threats of lawsuits, the supposedly additional labor that would occur, and other hints of labor costs. If a list of 107 books can be gathered in a short amount of time, by a small amount of people, then this so called cost is exaggerated. As to the lawsuits, this is fear tactics.

Opposing testimonies discuss these books as educational and that it would be harmful to remove them.

A previous testimony spoke about an increase of STI's and hints that it could escalate if these books are removed; let me remind you that one of these books states that STI's are "no biggie."

Another testimony stated that you might see the same information in a school sex education class as in the book, "Let's Talk About It," but the last I checked, a school setting would never tell a student that porn is a 'fun sugary treat' or that sexting is 'fun and sexy.'

Do not be dissuaded by these sugar coated testimonies; they are skating over the very disturbing reality that these books provide explicit sexual acts that are dangerous and obscene. Fisting is dangerous and obscene; it could literally cause extreme physical harm. But we are being told by our libraries that this is not considered obscene for minors.

Therefore, I respectfully request a do pass recommendation for Senate Bill 2360. Thank you and I'll stand for any questions.