

TESTIMONY OF MARILYN FOSS

OPPOSING SB 2360

Chairman Klemin, Members of the House Judiciary Committee, my name is Marilyn Foss. I am a North Dakotan, born, raised, and educated. I spent my entire professional career, some 48 years, working in North Dakota. I am a mother of three and a grandmother of seven. As parents, owners of a self-started small business, as ranchers and as practicing professionals all are committed to North Dakota and having it be a place of safety in which to raise children.

As a general matter, I subscribe to the principle of parental, rather than government directives and oversight when it comes to decisions about what is or is not appropriate material and information for children. And I cannot conceive that I, as a parent, could not control or restrict my child's access to inappropriate materials or information better than a librarian or the local body given responsibility to oversee taxpayer funded libraries.

I think adults should be allowed to decide for themselves what **non-obscene** information they access. And, that no one, including librarians and other public employees, should be made into targets for members of the public who may want to control other adults' access to **non-obscene** material and information and substitute their viewpoints for those of others.

I think it is highly unlikely that any public library in North Dakota provides children with unfettered computer access to digital pornography. Given that, I would expect the provisions of this bill relating to contracts and verification for digital resources will do little other than cause libraries to cease to offer digital resources for use by children thereby depriving many of critical skills for the future.

Because I read the changes proposed by SB 2360 as trampling on parents' and adult free speech rights governed by the U.S. Constitution I oppose SB 2360 and respectfully ask you to give this bill a "do not pass" recommendation