

March 14, 2023

Chairman Klemin and Members of the House Judiciary Committee,

For the record, my name is Andrea Placher, and I am the Collection Development Chair of the North Dakota Digital Consortium. Our consortium is made up of libraries across the state who work together to provide an online audio book, eBook, and magazine collection through a company called OverDrive to North Dakota communities. For the reasons listed below, I am urging you to vote DO NOT PASS.

OverDrive, known to most North Dakotans as Library2Go or Libby, (the online app) sorts materials into categories such as fiction, nonfiction, children, young adult, etc. so patrons can easily find the materials they are looking for. Their filtering system is easy to use and navigate for all users. In addition, our consortium currently has existing policies addressing materials collection, as well as materials reconsideration requests. In the last five years, 51,669 unique users utilized Library2Go and checked out 3.133 million items.

The staff time needed to read and/or listen to every item by the proposed deadline would be literally impossible with current North Dakota library staff and budget. Our collection currently holds 67,628 items with additional materials added annually. The financial and functional burden that would be placed on libraries across the state, which would in turn affect its tax paying citizens, would be outrageous.

It is my opinion that SB2360 is unnecessary as policies and procedures are already in place and will place an immense financial and functional burden to North Dakota community members.

Respectfully,



Andrea Placher
North Dakota Digital Consortium
Collection Development Chair